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# South and East Asia Report

No. 1044



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TEXT OF ACTING PRESIDENT'S 8 JUL SPEECH TO NATION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 9 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar on Wednesday expressed his firm belief that the nation imbued with the spirit of Bangladeshi nationalism would find strength and courage in their profound love and respect for late President Ziaur Rahman to carry forward the unfinished task of the great leader.

Addressing the nation over radio and television at the end of forty-day national mourning and on the occasion of Chehlum of late President Ziaur Rahman, the Acting President said that would be the best way to show real respect to our beloved leader.

Acting President Sattar said that the Government was determined to maintain the democratic process and run the country in pursuance of the ideals and policies of late President Ziaur Rahman.

The Acting President said that the spontaneous support and sympathy expressed by the people and leaders of different countries at the time of our national crisis was the manifestation of the success of the country's foreign policy formulated by the late President.

Mr Justice Sattar said that the Government had already declared its determination to hold free and fair elections and called upon all democratic political parties and people to cooperate in holding the elections impartially and peacefully.

Following is the full text of the speech:

Full Text

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim,

Dear countrymen,

Assala Mualaikum:

We have been observing national mourning for the last 40 days after losing our beloved leader. Although we are overwhelmed at the sudden loss yet we did not lose our sense of direction and deviate from the democratic process and ideals. It is a matter of great pride for us that the whole nation imbued with a sense

of patriotism, showed strong unity, patience and will power at that moment of crisis, for that I am sincerely congratulating all of you.

The late President Ziaur Rahman was the source of inspiration of all our activities. So, the vacuum created by his martyrdom could never be filled up. Yet, we cannot go back or stop our activities. It will be our main responsibility at this time to put in our united efforts for materialising his dream by following his ideals and policies. For this national unity and solidarity is needed which the countrymen had already demonstrated. This solid unity of the people at all levels will contribute to implement the ideals of the great leader, particularly in consolidating the democratic process.

The present government is determined to maintain the democratic process and run the country pursuing the ideals and policies of the great leader. With this end in view the date of presidential election has been fixed on September 21. The Government has already declared its determination to hold free and fair elections. I hope all our democratic-minded political parties and people will extend their full cooperation for holding the election impartially and peacefully.

#### Peace Must for Democracy

Peace and discipline are the utmost necessities for creating a favourable atmosphere for democracy. It is the duty of all patriotic citizens to extend cooperation to the Government for containing any effort of creating law and order situation in the greater national interests.

We have received recognitions for successes in our foreign policy founded by our dear leader for the country from all over the world. The peoples & leaders of different countries stood by us as friends at the time of our national crisis. Their spontaneous and sincere sympathy have once again proved the success of our foreign policy which is based on nonalignment, respect for territorial integrity noninterference in other country internal affairs and peaceful settlement of all problems and disputes.

Our beloved leader is not only respected at home but also internationally. People will never forget the loss of their dear leader even after the completion of the state mourning. The internationally respected great leader has left examples of ideals and inspiration for us to emulate. Only with the successful reflection of his ideals and teachings in the masses, his golden dream of self-reliance will take concrete shape.

I firmly believe that the nation imbued with the spirit of Bangladeshi nationalism will find strength and courage in carrying forwards the unfinished tasks of the late leader, and that will be the best way to show respect to the beloved leader. Let the infinite mercy of the Almighty Allah be our guide.

Khuda Hafez,

Bangladesh Zindabad.

CSO: 4220/7325



DETAILS OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION SESSION REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Jul 81 pp 1, 16

[Text] The Jatiya Sangsad approved the proclamation of Emergency declared by Acting President Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar on May 30 last following the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman.

The Leader of the House Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman moved the Emergency resolution seeking approval of the House enabling the government to continue the Emergency beyond 120 days. The approval of the Emergency also empowered the government to make laws under Emergency powers.

The Constitution provides for declaration of Emergency by the President if the security of Bangladesh is threatened internally or externally and needs the approval of the Parliament within 120 days if the government feels it necessary to continue Emergency more than 120 days. Defending the continuation of Emergency in the country Leader of the House Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said that the State of Emergency was still persisting in the country because of the continuation of politics of violence. "Politics of violence is still going on in the country and conspiracy had been hatched against the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh both internally and externally" the Prime Minister added. The Emergency was also needed to protect the life and property of the people adding he said, ask the students of international relations who studied the events of Talpatty and in neighbouring areas whether Emergency was needed or not.

Earlier the Opposition members who participated in the discussion criticised the government for continuing the Emergency in the country. They said that the government was seeking approval of the Emergency for continuing it up to the Presidential election. They demanded immediate withdrawal of emergency for free and fair election. Replying to the critics Prime Minister said that Emergency shall not be there more than an hour it is required. He assured the Opposition that the Presidential election will be held freely and fairly. He told the House that even the last Presidential and Parliamentary election was held under Emergency and the Opposition got more than 80 seats which was unprecedented in the Parliamentary history of Bangladesh and the then Pakistan.

The Leader of the House said that more Declaration of Emergency or its approval does not suspend the fundamental rights under Article 141 of the Constitution. He said that unless the laws are enacted the approval does not curtail the

political rights and freedom of the Press. He said that the political parties can function freely--they can bring out processions and hold meetings, they can do it during the election. The Prime Minister said that no one should be afraid of emergency--it has not been approved to interfere in the political activities of the country. The approval merely empowers the government to enact laws under Emergency powers.

The Prime Minister also told the House that the Emergency Act was under consideration. If it is not required we shall not pass the Emergency Act. Shah Aziz said that Emergency was a Constitutional means to meet the emergent situation. The Emergency is being proclaimed when it is required in all the democratic countries of the world. It was proclaimed in Sri Lanka India and in other countries.

The Prime Minister repeatedly assured a free and fair poll in the coming Presidential election. Prime Minister Shah Aziz also criticised the Opposition for repeating their allegation that the sixth Amendment had been passed for serving the interest of an individual. He reiterated that the Sixth Amendment had created an institution in which the sitting President and Vice-President can seek re-election. He challenged the Opposition to show one example anywhere in the world under any system where the sitting President Vice President and Prime Minister can seek re-election.

Prime Minister Shah Aziz said that Acting President is Justice and an efficient and honest man. Age should not be any deterrent for his election to the post of President because he is already discharging the duty. He said nobody can guarantee the longevity of any one. It's in the Hand of the Almighty he added.

Participating in the discussion Mr. Suranjit Sengupta (Ekota Party) questioned the necessity of continuing the Emergency in the country when the government was claiming normal situation all over the country. He said that the government had not said that there was any external threat or internal disorder now prevailing in the country. Why then the Emergency should continue, he asked the government.

He accused the government of continuing the Emergency for "ensuring the victory of its candidate in the Presidential election." Under the Emergency, he said, the Presidential election would be a farce. The Opposition, he added, would think whether they would participate in the Presidential election if the Emergency was continued. He said that the last Presidential election was held under Martial Law in 1978 and this time also it is going to be held under Emergency.

He recalled that after Ziaur Rahman was elected President he passed the Withdrawal of Emergency by this House. But today within 40 days of President Zia's death, he observed, the ruling party was again approving the Emergency in the same House. Referring to the passage of the Sixth Amendment of the Constitution, he said that the Prime Minister had broken all Parliamentary norms in passing the Sixth Amendment. He termed the passage of the Sixth Amendment as another "Constitutional coup". This Amendment, he said, was passed only to elect one particular man. The Acting President he recalled, told foreign journalists that he would not be Presidential candidate. But today he was going to contest the election for "lust of power" even at such an old age, Mr. Sengupta said.

Mr. Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury (ML-Siddiqui) criticised the government for continuing the Emergency when the nation was preparing to go to Presidential election. He said that the government was continuing the Emergency to elect its own candidate. He wanted to know from the government why the whole nation must suffer under emergency for the violent activities of certain individuals in which President Zia was killed.

The ML-Siddiqui member said that the Opposition would support any move by the government for any substantive amendment to the Constitution. He reminded the ruling party that one victory in the Presidential election would not ensure BNP in power as in democracy there would be elections after election. He said that they could repose their trust on President Zia. But, after him the people could not trust anyone in the ruling party for their behaviour, Mr. Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury said. He reminded the ruling party that "Deen-e-Elahi was in force till Emperor Akbar was alive" and after the death of President Ziaur Rahman what would happen to BNP.

Kazi Kader of Muslim League (Sabur) justified the necessity of Emergency in the country. He, however, wanted to know from the government as to why and for how many days the Emergency would continue.

Mr. Almas Hossain of Muslim League (Sabur) said that the government was continuing the emergency as a "weapon to win the Presidential election." He also observed that the Emergency was being continued to "meet the internecine quarrels in the ruling party". He asked the BNP members "without Zia who knows you?"

In his speech Haji Shafiqullah of Islamic Democratic League (IDL) said that immediately after the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman Emergency was necessary. But, he questioned, when there was rule of law and the democratic process was continuing what was the necessity of continuing the Emergency now.

Mr. Sirajul Huq of IDL demanded immediate withdrawal of Emergency. He said that if the Presidential election was to be held in a free and fair way the Emergency must go.

Mr. A. S. M. Solaiman of Gano Front demanded immediate withdrawal of Emergency. He said that continuation of Emergency and denial of fundamental rights of the people would lead to Martial Law.

Independent member Mr. Abdul Huq demanded withdrawal of Emergency before the starting of the election campaign. He observed that under Emergency even if the election was fair there would be doubt in the minds of the people about the free and fair election.

Another Independent member Mr. Abul Hasnat Abdul Hai also demanded immediate withdrawal of emergency.

OPPOSITION PARTIES SCORE SIXTH AMENDMENT BILL

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Different political parties in separate statements to the Press on Friday criticised the Sixth Constitution Amendment Bill moved in the Jatiya Sangsad. The political parties alleged that the amendment has been moved by the ruling party in the interest of an individual.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Mr Abdur Razzak, President and General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League (H) in a joint statement on Friday said that the ruling party had moved the Sixth Amendment Bill ignoring the demand of all the Opposition parties for introducing parliamentary democracy in the country. They alleged that the amendment aims at consolidating the power of the ruling party. They called upon all progressive democratic forces in the country to resist this amendment.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh in a statement also criticised the Sixth Amendment Bill. The Acting Amir and Secretary General of Jamat-e-Islami, Bangladesh Mr Abhas Ali Khan and Mr Shamsur Rahman respectively said that the Sixth Amendment Bill has been moved in the interest of an individual.

Mr Abu Naser Khan Bhashani of National Awami Party urged the Acting President to contest the polls by resigning his post and to shift the date of election sometime in November.

CSO: 4220/7309



MUSLIM LEAGUE SETS CONDITIONS FOR POLL PARTICIPATION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh Muslim League (Siddiky) put forward five preconditions for participating in the coming presidential election and decided to announce the name of the party candidate on August 7 subject to the fulfilment of these conditions by the government.

A press release issued on Sunday said that the decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the national committee of the party on Sunday held under the chairmanship of the party president Mr Justice B. A. Siddiky.

The pre-conditions were: shifting of the polling date to third week of November, withdrawal of the proclamation of emergency, release of all those detained or convicted under Collaborators' Act, equal opportunities to all candidates for the use of Radio, Television and other publicity media, announcement of election fund by all candidates including source of Finance and arrangement of projection meetings at district and sub-divisional levels by the Election Commission where each candidate would announce his/her election programme.

CSO: 4220/7420

**BNP OFFICIALS' STATEMENT WELCOMES SIXTH AMENDMENT**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 6 Jul 81 p 3

[Text] Mr. Khalequzzaman Dudu, Organising Secretary and Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu, Agricultural Secretary of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in a joint statement to the Press on Saturday welcomed the Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1981.

The two BNP leaders pointed out that everybody ought to support the Sixth Amendment Bill in the greater interest of the country and democracy, rather than in the interest of any party.

They criticised the recent statements by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and AL (Hasina) General Secretary Mr Abdur Razzak in this regard. Mr. Dudu and Sheikh Shawkat Hossain termed the statements by AL President and the General Secretary as 'undemocratic.'

The BNP leaders called upon the MPs of the Muslim League and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) to help carry forward the constitutional process, pointing out that a constitutional crisis in the country would only strengthen the hands of the undemocratic forces.

**AJL Resents**

Mr. Amir Hossain Amu and Mr. Fakir Abdur Razzak, Chairman and General Secretary, respectively, of the Bangladesh Awami Jubo League in a joint statement to the Press on Saturday expressed their indignation against the Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1981, saying that the Bill was contrary to the fundamental spirit of the Constitution.

They called upon the Government to refrain from passing the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution and to hold a referendum on the issue.

Among other organisations that issued Press statements opposition the Bill on Saturday were: the Progressive Democratic Force (PDF) and the Bangladesh Biplobi Chhatra Union.

CSO: 4220/7317

HOUSE LEADER MOVES NEW CLAUSES TO SIXTH AMENDMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] The Jatiya Sangsad was adjourned on Monday after the second reading of the proposed Sixth Amendment of the Constitution. Leader of the House Shah Azizur Rahman moved an Amendment to the proposed Constitution Amendment Bill which was admitted by the House. Opposition and Independent members were not present during the 30-minute session on Monday.

A total of 37 proposals by Opposition members to circulate the bill for eliciting public opinion one proposal to send the bill to the Scrutiny Committee and 18 proposed amendments to the bill fell through as the proposers all belonging to Opposition were not present.

Leader of the House proposed an amendment to add two new clauses. One clause said "If a President or a Vice-President is elected as a Member of Parliament, he shall not be qualified to be such member until he ceases to hold office as President or Vice-President. The other clause says "If a Member of Parliament is elected as President or appointed as Vice-President he shall be deemed to have vacated his seat in Parliament on the date on which he enters upon his office as President or Vice-President.

After the second reading the Leader of the House Shah Azizur Rahman proposed to adjourn the House till Tuesday morning to allow him to continue his negotiations with Opposition and group leaders so that they participate in the discussion on the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution. He said that their efforts was to ensure participation of the Opposition. He hoped that the Opposition will play their role in the House.

Speaker Mirza Golan Hafiz adjourned the House till 10 a.m. today (Tuesday).

Earlier Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Amendment) Bill was introduced in the House.

Meanwhile it is learnt that the Constitution Sub-committee of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party's Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) met twice on Monday with Leader of the House in the chair. The Sub-committee reached a decision to have a running mate of the Presidential candidate of the party. This was one of the three demands by a group of the ruling party.

The running mate of the Presidential candidate will be selected by the party's National Council.

CSO: 4220/7319

PEOPLE'S LEAGUE CHAIRMAN OPPOSES SIXTH AMENDMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Jul 81 p 12

[Text] Dr Aleem Al-Razee Chairman of the Bangladesh People's League on Sunday appealed to the Government not to bring the proposed Sixth Amendment to the Constitution, reports BSS.

Addressing a Press conference at the central office of the party in Dacca on Sunday afternoon Dr Razee observed that the passing of the proposed Sixth Amendment to the Constitution would not only benefit a single individual but also ensure an ever lasting dictatorship in the country.

He recalled that the part of the constitution which the BNP Government wanted to amend was introduced by the late President Ziaur Rahman with a view to democratisation of the Fourth Amendment and added that if the BNP Government finally passed the Sixth Amendment it would be an act of dishonour to the late President and disgraceful as well to the whole nation.

Dr Razee said that only going back to the parliamentary democracy in accordance with the 1972 constitution could solve all constitutional problems once for all.

Referring to the killings of two Presidents under the existing system Dr Razee said "we don't want to see any more tears in the eyes of widow".

Pointing to the protest by a section of BNP against the proposed amendment in the constitution Dr Razee called for strong resistance from all quarters to prevent the Government from passing the Sixth Amendment so hurriedly.

Dr Razee also said that under the existing circumstances no body had a chance of being elected to the post of President if he had to contest a sitting President.

He demanded that the Acting President should handover power temporarily to the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad before the election.

Dr Aleem Al-Razee demanded withdrawal of the state of emergency and criticised the imposition of pre-censorship on three weeklies.

He also demanded shifting of the date of presidential election from September 21 to the third week of November.

He suggested that the political parties seeking parliamentary democracy should unitedly put up one candidate in the coming polls.

CSO: 4220/7315



OPPOSITION LEADER TELLS VIEWS ON SIXTH AMENDMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiyo Sangsad, believes that seeking re-election by sitting President and Vice-President was highly "undemocratic" in our country.

He based his views on the assumption that there would be widespread rigging of election and use of government machinery by the incumbent President and Vice-President.

Asked how could such large number of Opposition Members--in fact, largest since 1947--could return to Parliament even in the face of such malpractices as alleged by him, the Leader of the Opposition said much larger number of Opposition Members would have returned to Parliament if the Government party would not have taken resort to malpractice.

Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan speaking to newsmen at his Sangsad Chamber on Wednesday criticised the Government for adopting the Sixth Amendment of the Constitution. He said the amendment has been made to 'suit' the need of the BNP candidate and also to strengthen 'autocratic' rule in the country.

The Leader of the Opposition accused the Government of defying the opinion of the Opposition parties which was clearly in favour of the Parliamentary form of Government.

He said switching over to parliamentary form of government would have been possible by amending the constitutional provisions.

He said the Sixth Amendment would not be acceptable to the people.

BSS adds: Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan told a questioner that the Leader of the Islamic Democratic League, Moulana Abdur Rahim had informed him earlier that they (IDL) would join the session from today (Wednesday). He, however said that the Muslim League and other Independent members who attended the session today (Wednesday) did not inform him anything about their joining.

Replying to a question Mr. Khan said that it would be decided today (Wednesday) or tomorrow (Thursday) if the Opposition would participate in the current session again.

CSO: 4220/7324

PARLIAMENT PASSES SIXTH AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] The Jatiya Sangsad passed the Sixth Constitution Amendment Bill on Wednesday enabling the sitting President and Vice-President to seek re-election. The Bill was passed by 252 votes including seven Opposition and Independent members voting for the motion.

Speaker Mirza Golam Hafiz who announced the results of the division did not mention the number of Opposition members who abstained from voting. Later Mr Solaiman drew the attention of the Speaker and got their name recorded--the number being six. The four BNP members including a former minister were not present in the House at the time of the division. The seven Opposition and Independent Members who voted for the Bill were Mr. Afabuddin Ahmed and Mr. Ismael Hussain Talukdar, Muslim League Dr. M. O. Gani and Mr. M. A. Huq, Independent, Mr. Rafiqullah Chowdhury Gano Front Mr. Sirajul Huq and Mr. Nurunnabi Samdani of IDL.

Earlier when the Speaker called for division on the Bill 13 Members belonging to Muslim League (Sabur) Islamic Democratic League, Gano Front and two Independent Members entered the House amidst cheers from the Treasury Bench. The Opposition and Independent Members were boycotting the House since Monday following the rejection of their demand to adjourn the House till July 13.

The Opposition and Independent Members who attended the session and participated in the discussion and voting on the Sixth Constitution Amendment Bill said that it was not undemocratic to amend the Constitution. They held that the Constitution was the creation of the people and when it is necessary for the interest of democratic functioning the Constitution could be amended. They informed the House that they did not attend the House since Monday following a misunderstanding and not in protest against the Sixth Amendment Bill. They, however called for bringing more amendments to make the Constitution more democratic and suitable for the hopes and aspiration of the people.

Earlier, speaking on the motion, the Leader of the House said that those who did not attend the session and participate in the discussion on the Bill had shown their disrespect to democracy. The Leader of the House Shah Azizur Rahman said that he would have been happy if the Opposition would have attended the session criticised the Bill and voted against the Bill.

Shah Azizur Rahman highly praised those who attended the session adding that they had played a vital and historic role in establishing democracy. He regretted that the Opposition members who remained out of the House had proved that they did not want democracy. Difference is the essence of democracy, Shah Aziz said adding further that some Opposition parties ran away from the problems and they did not participate in resolving the national crisis.

The Leader of the House further said that the Sixth constitutional amendment was a technical amendment which was kept in the Constitution inadvertently. He said that all over the world the sitting Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Prime Ministers can seek reelection. He cited the example of former President Carter, of United States, President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India who sought re-election from office and lost. The same system was prevalent in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and many other countries. "We have also done same thing through this amendment the Prime Minister added saying that nothing unconstitutional had been done in the amendment. Even if Sheikh Mujib or President Zia would have been alive they would have to bring this Amendment, he said.

Shah Aziz said that it was not correct that the amendment had been moved to serve the interest of an individual. He noted that the post of President and Vice Presidents was the institutions and the outstanding personalities are not born everyday. So there should be scope for re-election of the sitting President and Vice-President.

The House was adjourned till 10.30 a.m. on Thursday.

CSO: 4220/7324

**BSD CRITICIZES PASSAGE OF CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 14 Jul 81 p 8

[Text] The Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal has criticised the passage of the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution and approval of the State of Emergency by the Parliament and retention of what it termed black laws including Fourth and Fifth Amendment of the Constitution.

The party made the remarks after reviewing the political situation obtaining in the country at the meeting of its Central Committee on Monday.

It observed that the date for presidential polls were announced hurriedly ignoring the political parties. The date set in the monsoon period would be inconvenient to proper campaign and political environment; it opined.

The BSD urged all left-democratic forces to build up a united front to create proper political atmosphere and launch a movement.

**Three Party Meet**

A joint-workers meeting of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal; Bangladesh Workers Party and Sramik Krisak Samajbadi Dal was held at JSD Office on Monday to make a success of the three parties programme of rally and demonstration at Baitul Mukarram square at 5 p.m. on July 15.

Lt Gen (Retd) Khwaja Wasiuddin on Monday strongly criticised the approval of Constitution Sixth Amendment Bill and Proclamation of Emergency order by Jatiya Sangsad reports ENA.

In a statement to the Press he said through passage of the Sixth Amendment Bill the ruling party has undermined the sanctity of the Constitution. He said the amendment was designed to serve individual and party interests.

He also called upon the Government to invite the opposition party leaders to discuss the internal and external threats facing the country and evolve a democratic process so that power goes to the people in the interest of security and stability of the country.

CSO: 4220/7401a



PAKISTAN DELEGATION LEADER TALKS TO PRESS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] The leader of the five-member Pakistani goodwill delegation, Interior Minister Mr Mahmood A. Haroon paid homage to the leadership of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and said that Bangladesh's determination to strengthen the institutions built by the late leader had impressed his team, reports BSS.

He was talking to newsmen on Saturday night at the Kurmitola airport at the end of the three-day visit by his delegation which came here to pay homage to the late President Ziaur Rahman and express the condolences of the Government and the people of Pakistan.

The people of Pakistan, he said wish Bangladesh every success and added 'we wish Bangladesh stronger'.

Replying to a question Mr. Haroon said that no bilateral issues were discussed during the visit as it was a period of mourning. It is not the time for that he added.

Mr Haroon described the relations between the two countries as friendly and brotherly.

He said that Bangladesh and the Islamic world will grow not in the military but in the economic and spiritual sense.

Replying to a question he said that he had made courtesy calls on both the leaders in the Government and in the Opposition. But he said that no political issues were discussed and added "we want to keep scrupulously out of politics".

Answering a question he referred to the situation in Pakistan's borders and said his country wanted to be left alone in its internal affairs. He added "we want to keep away from the internal politics of any country".

The goodwill delegation during its stay here laid wreaths at the Jatiya Shaheed Smriti Shoudha paying homage to the martyrs of the War of Independence.

It also offered fatcha and laid wreaths at the mazar of Shaheed President Zia.

Asked whether his delegation had proposed for giving permission to one lakh Pakistanis to visit Bangladesh for zearat of President Ziaur Rahman's mazar as

has been reported by a local Bengali daily Mr Haroon said "it's news to me. You can imagine how much it will cost. No developing country can afford this. And how many ships and other transports such a movement will require. Even for Hajj we have a limited capacity for transportation".

He described the report as a work of "imagination and fable" and asked "what can we do if anyone can imagine like this".

Asked when the election is likely to be held in Pakistan Mr Haroon said, "we have a lot of trouble in our border" and added "not only that there is conflict of ideologies".

He said that today Pakistan was having 2.2 million refugees from Afghanistan and 50 per cent of the expenses had to be borne by his country as a matter of humanitarian duty.

The delegation included Raja Zafarul Haq, Information and Broadcasting Minister, Mr Fakhre Imam Minister for Local Bodies and Rural Development Mr Niaz Muhammad Arbab, Minister for Sports and Culture and Begum Afifa Mammad State Minister for Health and Social Welfare.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Home Minister Mr A. S. M. Mustafizur Rahman Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mrs Taslima Abed, State Minister for Women's Affairs and Mrs Qamrunnagar Zafar Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development.

The delegation during its visit called on the Acting President the Prime Minister Begum Ziaur Rahman and the Foreign Minister.

The delegation members also met their counterparts.

CSO: 4220/7313

STRANDED PAKISTANIS' ENVOY MEETS VISITOR FROM KARACHI

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] A four-man delegation of Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) led by its Chief Patron Md Nasim Khan called on leader of Pakistani ministerial mission and Interior Minister Mr. Mahmood A. Haroon says a Press release of the SPGRC issued in Dacca on Thursday reports BSS.

The Press release said the delegation called on the Pakistani Minister at Hotel Sonargaon and had very fruitful discussions with him for one and a half hours on the question of total repatriation of the Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh.

Mr Khan on behalf of the three lakhs stranded Pakistanis presented a copy of the Holy Quran and a handicraft prepared in the camp to the Pakistan Minister. The General Secretary of SPGRC Md Shukruddin, Mrs Shahnaz Begum and Molvi Abdul Ghafoor were with Mr Nasim Khan while the Ambassador of Pakistan in Bangladesh Dr M. Humayun Khan head of the Chancery Mr Sirdar Mahmood and other high officials assisted the Interior Minister of Pakistan.

The Press release said the Pakistani Minister was very much impressed and assured the delegation of SPGRC that there would be a solution to the problem of repatriation and disclosed that dialogues between the two concerned governments on the issue of total repatriation is in progress. He consoled the delegation and promised to convey the sentiments of the Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh to President Ziaul Haq for an early solution, the Press release added.

CSO: 4220/7313

PRESS RELEASE ON INDIAN ALLEGATIONS REVIEWED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Jul 81 pp 1, 16

[Text] The Government on Thursday dismissed as "completely baseless concocted and obviously motivated" Indian Press reports which said President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan in a message recently had assured Chief of Bangladesh Army Staff Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad of Pakistan's all-out assistance in the event of a crisis in Bangladesh reports BSS.

An ISPR Press release said the Indian Press also reported that the Bangladesh Army Chief in his reply had reciprocated the "friendly feelings" saying that the country would have to rely on Pakistan's assured assistance.

Attention of the Government has been drawn to a news item published in a section of the Indian Press and subsequently given currency to by certain interested quarters in Dacca to the effect that the Pakistan President General Ziaul Haq had sent a message to the Chief of Army Staff Bangladesh Army Lt. General H. M. Ershad assuring Pakistan's allout assistance in the event of a crisis in Bangladesh. The Indian Press report also went on to say that the Bangladesh Army Chief in his reply had reciprocated the "friendly feelings" saying that the country would have to rely on Pakistan's assured assistance.

The Government stated categorically that there is no truth whatsoever in the Indian Press report which is completely baseless, concocted and obviously motivated. The concerned Indian Press did however express its regret later over the publication of such unconfirmed and baseless story.

It has also been observed that certain interested quarters in the country have been indulging in loose talk linking the recent goodwill visit of the Pakistan Ministerial delegation to the so-called "message" reported in the Indian Press.

It is clarified for information of the members of the public that the Defence Attache of the Pakistan Embassy in Dacca in a letter to the Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff had expressed condolence on behalf of Chief of Army Staff Pakistan Army General Ziaul Haq, who is also the President of that country on the tragic demise of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of Bangladesh late President Ziaur Rahman. The text of the letter reproduced below, will show that it was simply a condolence message sent by the Army Chief of a country to his counterpart in Bangladesh during the national mourning. The Defence Attache of Pakistan Embassy was thanked by the Chief of Army Staff Bangladesh.



INFORMATION MINISTER REVIEWS PRESS, TV PROGRESS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 9 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Information and Broadcasting Minister, Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, told the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday that the newspapers have complete freedom to print news and comment as there is freedom of Press in Bangladesh.

The Minister was replying to a question of Moulana Abdur Rahim who asked about the ownership of weekly BICHITRA and if it reflected government views. The Minister said that the weekly originally belonged to former Press Trust of Pakistan which came under control of the Government after independence. But it did not reflect Government views as there is complete freedom of Press in the country.

In reply to another question by Mr Anisuzzaman Khokon (Mymensingh) the Minister said that declaration of a newspaper was cancelled between 1977 and '81 under the Press and Publication Act because the paper contained indecent material.

He said that there are 426 newspapers in the country. These include 45 dailies, 169 weeklies, 31 fortnightly and 181 monthlies.

He told Mr Faizul Huq (Batala) that the Bangladesh Television would be tele-casting only colour programmes at the end of Second Plan period. Measures were being implemented with this objectives in view.

The Minister said that between July and September 1981 the total expenditure of Television amounted to Taka 99,53,801 as against Taka 27,46,687 earned as advertisement.

He said that Government had received complaint that foreign films were being exhibited over VCR but it did not receive any complaint that blue films were also being shown over it. The Government did not have any statistics about the number of VCR in the country.

Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury said that the Government had allotted 23 bighas of land in Mirpur for the Journalists Cooperative Housing Society. He said the Government was maintaining communication with the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (DFUJ) and the Dacca Union of Journalists (DUJ) in this respect.

CSO: 4220/7325

## BANGLADESH

### MEXICAN EMISSARY IN DACCA TO DISCUSS MINISUMMIT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Jul 81 pp 1, 16

[Text] Dr Eugenio Anguiano Roch, Ambassador and Member Consultative Committee in the External Relations Ministry of Mexico arrived in Dacca on Tuesday as special envoy of his country for consultation with Bangladesh authorities regarding the forthcoming mini-summit on north-south issues says BSS.

He told newsmen at the Kurmitola Airport on arrival in Dacca that the nature of the consultation would be exchange of views with Bangladesh officials on international cooperation for development.

It's very natural for Mexico to consult with Bangladesh about international economic and development matters because it (Bangladesh) is very active in these issues ambassador Roch said.

Dr Roch will have talks with the Bangladesh authorities about the preparations for the international summit meeting on cooperation and development to be held in the Mexican tourist resort city of Cancun in the Caribbean. About 23 countries including Bangladesh will participate in the two-day meeting which begins on October 22.

A preparatory meeting of Foreign Ministers of the participating countries towards the mini-summit will take place from August 1 to 2 at Mexico.

Mexico and Australia are this initiators of the Mexico mini-summit of the selected heads of state for attaining a breakthrough in the deadlocked north-south dialogue for international cooperation for development and evolving a new international economic order in the light of the Brandt commission report.

S. M. Akram :(6): 7-7-81

Dr Roch said that Bangladesh and Mexico worked in close cooperation in the international economic field.

Replying to a question he said that there will be no formal agenda at the mini-summit but he hoped that it would make a breakthrough in the north-south dialogue.

He said that it would be a meeting of political leadership at the highest level, first of its kind to take place and added 'we hope positive results'.

Money finance food and aid will among the important issues at the summit level meeting without agenda he said.

He told a questioner that the improved economic condition of Europe should give some impetus to the deadlocked north-south dialogue. Otherwise 'the international situation will become dangerous'.

Mr Masud Ahmed Director General for economic affairs in the foreign office with whom Dr Roch will have exchange of views received him at the airport.

During his three-day stay in Dacca the special envoy of the Mexican Government will also call on Foreign Minister Prof. Muhammad Shamsul Huq and Foreign Secretary Mr. Humayun Rashid Chowdhury.

Dr Roch said that Australia Algeria Bangladesh Brazil Canada China France FRG Great Britain Guyana Ivory Coast Japan Mexico Saudi Arabia Sweden USA Yugoslavia India and Tanzania, Nigeria Venezuela and Philippines will attend the mini-summit.

The special envoy arrived in Dacca after paying similar visits to Saudi Arabia and Tanzania and will go to India and China completing his visit to Dacca on July 9.

CSO: 4220/7322

DEPUTY PREMIER'S SPEECH AT BANGKOK ESCAP MEETING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Jul 81 pp 5, 6

[Excerpts from the statement of H. E. Mr Jamaluddin Ahmad, Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of the Ministry of Industries, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, at the ESCAP meeting of the ad hoc group of Ministers of Industry in Bangkok, 1-3 Jul 1981]

[Text] ESCAP has always been an exhilarating forum for me. I was closely associated with the meeting of the Industry Ministers held in this very conference room way back in 1977. We are back again here in 1981 to review the progress made on the objectives outlined in that meeting. By sheer length of stay as Minister for Industry for so long I may claim to have reached the age of super-annuation. Therefore, you will pardon me if I say that I have watched with a great deal of admiration the excellent work done by ESCAP and UNIDO in the field of industrial development particularly in the least developed countries. My country has greatly benefited from the support and assistance we have so far received from these two great organisations. Since we are not in a position right now to make up their financial shortfalls, the least we can do is to extend our very warm and sincere appreciation of the admirable work they have been doing and I am sure will continue to do in future. All I can say is that they have all our support.

I am very happy to be able to attend this meeting of the Ad hoc Group of Ministers of Industry from this region. I would like to express our satisfaction to the fact that ESCAP Secretariat has very consistently and systematically pursued the deliberations of the first meeting of the Industry Ministers of ESCAP held in 1977 where we identified 4 elements in a new orientation of industrial policies and strategies.

Since 1979 this Ad hoc Group of Ministers held several meetings and I am very happy to be able to participate in yet another meeting of this group with my other esteemed colleagues from the region.

In my first intervention in this august gathering I would like to make some general comments on the main paper presented by the Secretariat for our consideration drawing largely from our own experiences in Bangladesh. At a later stage, however, I would deal with specific issues that may come up during item-wise discussion of the Agenda.



It is contended that the political will for industrialisation which was very strong in the developing countries after World War II has considerably weakened and that it has become necessary to do something positive to refurbish the political will and renew our faith in the industrialisation of the developing countries.

It will be difficult to say that such a weakening of the political will has taken place. We believe that what has happened is a shift in the strategy for development from complete public sector ownership and control to private sector orientation, from large expensive and grandeur industries to small, cottage and rural industries. The policy shift is partly due to lessons of history, partly due to constraint of resources and in some measure the result of the policy of the donor countries and agencies to discourage development and relocation of large industrial complexes in the developing countries.

In 1971-72 with the independence of Bangladesh, came the wave of nationalisation, the direct expression of the frustration of the people of long years of industrial domination and exploitation by a handful of families. Private sector ownership came to be regarded as synonymous with exploitation. The role of private sector was reduced to an extent as to be non-existent. The entire burden of identification, planning, execution of new projects, the control and management of old ones fell on the public sector corporations who were ill-equipped to take on this burden and responsibility, leading to initial mismanagement and drop in the industrial productivity. Lack of imagination bold concept and project planning resulted in sharp drop in industrial investments. The allocation from public sector resources, with other competing demands, became scarce for the industries sector.

These factors led to a drop in the actual investment in industries not due to any lack of "will" on the part of the Government but due to policy changes not conducive to new investments.

With the change of policy in Bangladesh in 1976 and Govt.'s warm welcome to private investments including foreign private investments, the scenario changed considerably. The right climate was created with the Govt.'s avowed and declared policy of encouraging private investment. The fiscal incentive package gave the necessary encouragement and led to an upsurge in private investments. Since 1976, Govt. has been pursuing a consistent policy of industrial growth with complete complementarity between the public and the private sector. The public sector corporations in the meantime were reorganised and their position consolidated with the disinvestment of large number of small and medium sized industrial enterprises. With reduced responsibility and concentrated attention they were able to show positive improvements in their performance and productivity.

Therefore, although industrial growth slowed down in Bangladesh during 72-76, it was not due to any lack of will or political determination, but due to factors which in some cases were beyond our control. The factors beyond our control were: (a) The global economic environment in 1970s--the rising oil prices, growing balance of payments deficit, protection barriers raised by the developed countries against manufactured exports from the developing countries, slower resource flows etc. (b) The inadequate and uncertain supply of energy. (c) Lack

of foreign exchange resources and the high cost of investments especially imported capital goods etc.

It is an irony of circumstances that with several years of industrial stagnation when Bangladesh emerged as a country determined to develop industrially and evolved a suitable policy package to attract foreign investment, the world faced serious economic imbalances of runaway inflation high interest rates and lack of investible funds. These adverse circumstances have not however, discouraged us in pursuing the goal of industrialisation. Rather we are determined to go ahead weathering these adverse conditions.

Through a determined policy we have been able to create a very congenial climate for private investment in Bangladesh, both domestic and foreign. We have gradually relaxed public sector monopoly in industries and opened up new possibilities of investments for the private sector. We have enacted legislation to attract foreign private investment by giving them adequate protection and incentives. We have signed bilateral agreements with several industrialised countries for promotion and protection on bilateral basis. All these have created conditions and settings for foreign private investment. We have demonstrated our political will and determination but unfortunately this is not matched by the political will of the industrialised countries capable of assisting us in fulfilling our dream.

The initiative of the developing countries to get a higher share of the productive capacity of the World by the year 2000 as expressed in the L'laa Declaration is far from being realised. No concrete steps has yet been taken to ensure that we come at least closer to the target of 25%. We do hope that the enthusiasm and expectation created in the developing countries for industrialisation will be matched by positive approach in this respect in the industrialised countries.

Coming back to the paper under consideration wherein it is argued that multiplicity of objectives like greater social justice, equity in distribution, insistence on indigenous technologies, guarding against concentration of power in a few hands etc. have diffused the primary objective and goal of industrial growth, slowing down the whole process of industrialisation. The paper, therefore, calls for nontraditional approach what may be called a strategic approach under which one temporarily sacrifices some of the objective up to a certain limit of tolerance in favour of a clear and direct policy goal.

We feel that it is possible to make a synthesis between the social objectives and the economic goals of industrialisation, without in any way adversely affecting the industrial growth rate or slowing down the process of industrialisation. Dispersal of industry away from the Metropolitan areas to the remote corners of the country, equity in distribution, development of small and cottage industries in specific sectors are complimentary objectives and should not deter growth.

It is through discriminating fiscal measures like the rate of import duty, tax holiday that the Govt. now ensures and enforces dispersal of industry. There is no element of compulsion nor is it an "Either" "Or" situation. There is no empirical evidence to suggest that Govt's policy of dispersal has discouraged entrepreneurs into new investment. As a matter of fact the policy of dispersal

of industry or pre-determined location of industry fits well into the policy of the Govt. to encourage industry based on local raw materials. Sugar Industry based on sugar cane have a natural location away from the Metropolitan area, paper and pulp industry based on jute cuttings and bamboo should be closest to the raw material source. Urea Fertilizer factory should be closest to the gas distribution pipeline with adequate river and rail heads. For industry based on local raw materials and natural resources there appears no conflict of interest. It is only in cases where the industry is based on imported raw materials that the location can become an issue. In a country where the scarce resources are very delicately rationed and industrial sanctions are constantly sought after, it is not difficult to exercise moral pressure on the prospective entrepreneurs to set up units away from the Metropolitan areas.

A classic example of this is the sanctioning of the textile industry in my country which recently has been opened up for the private sector. Keen competition among the prospective candidates made it easy for the Govt. to attach "location in the less developed areas" as one of the conditions of sanction.

Linkage between Agriculture and Industry is an important corner stone of our industrial policy. We endorse the assessment made in this paper that both industry and agriculture are equally important--no single sector is more important than the other and both will remain important and mutually interdependent. The situation in Bangladesh is not different. We have long been a country exporting a substantial part of our agricultural produce either in raw or semi-finished form with the result that our terms of trade and export earnings have consistently suffered as a result of recessions in the industrialised countries. Export of raw jute, tea, hides and skins fish and shrimps the basic export commodities have increased in volume over the years but not in terms of foreign exchange earning for the country. One classic example is that in 1979-80 we exported 1.77 million bales of raw jute earning \$125 million in foreign exchange. In 1980-81 we exported 1.79 million bales of raw jute but earned \$112.00 million. Even with exports of higher quantity we got less. We exported 4.33 million sq. ft of hides & skins in 1979-80 and earned \$60 million. In 1980-81 we exported 8.37 million sq. feet and earned \$53 million. On the other hand our import bill for raw materials has been increasing by leaps & bounds.

It has then become a matter of sheer survival that we fully process our agricultural produce before exporting.

A country with constant balance of payments difficulty we can ill afford to fully service the imported raw material requirements of the industrial units. The shift to industry based on local resources--both agriculture and mineral--has been inevitable. Sugar, paper & Pulp, Newsprint, Hard Board Partex Rayon, Jute, Carpet Tannery and Leather, fish processing, tea, cigarettes are all agro-based industry and we are trying to develop more units in these related sectors. In these areas we have the technology, we have the know-how, but the main constraint is the scarcity of resources--both foreign exchange and domestic. There are unexplored areas of Fruit & Vegetable processing. Petro-chemicals based on natural gas where we need both technology and resources.

Agro-support industries also are receiving our full attention. Being endowed with natural gas, we are developing Urea Fertilizer Projects to meet the entire



requirement for the country and simultaneously exploit the export market. The existing capacity of 350,000 tons will soon be augmented to 900,000 tons and by the end of 1985-86, the total capacity in the country will exceed 2 million tons, with at least half a million of tons earmarked for export. Agricultural power pumps are manufactured in the country--we are self sufficient in pump manufacturing and gradually acquiring the technology for engine manufacture. In the meantime, we have developed a lot of local & indigenous methods of irrigation techniques through judicious use of our man-power & natural resources like Bamboo, Timber etc.

Establishment of an appropriate inter-sectoral terms of trade between agriculture and industry is an important element which has been very aptly brought out in the ESCAP paper. This element is constantly under watch by the government and any signal of the terms of trade going against agricultural sector is promptly corrected. The Government has a policy of announcing minimum prices for some of the crops including paddy, rice, jute sugarcane etc and have developed mechanism to ensure that the farmers receive the minimum prices, an adequate and fair return for their produces. The minimum price for Rice & Paddy is backed up by massive procurement programme by the Government to which guarantees minimum price for the farmers and simultaneously stabilizes the price of this staple food item throughout the year. Similarly, in jute also floor prices fixed by the Government are ensured to the farmers through procurement by the Governmental agencies. The Sugar industry is entirely in the nationalised sector, and adequate incentive price for sugarcane for the farmers is guaranteed. Research activities are also concentrated in the public-sector agencies to give the farmers improved varieties of seeds and other extension facilities to ensure higher yield per acre.

Guarantees of minimum prices for the cash crops through Government intervention are temporary measures and should not be substituted for long term goal of developing industries for processing these agricultural produce. It is thorough ensuring an assured market for the agricultural produce that we can firmly guarantee incentive prices to the farmers.

Before I conclude my opening statement I would like to refer to one other aspect of our industrial policy which are relevant to the discussion in this meeting. This is with regard to the policy of encouraging the small and cottage industries. Bangladesh has certain traditional sectors which have always been the prerogative of the small and cottage industries and will continue to be so. The massive infusion of foreign technology would not disturb this tradition. I am particularly referring to the cotton textile sector where the spinning is usually done in the large and modern cotton textile industries, but the weaving is almost entirely located in the cottage sector. In Bangladesh today close to a million people are directly engaged in hand-loom industry and more than 75% of our total requirement of cloth comes from the cottage sector.

Similarly, salt silk earthen utensils manufacturing of small agricultural tools and equipments etc. are traditionally embedded in the small-scale sectors. There is little danger of these being dislodged by large industries.

However, there are areas where arguments can be heard both in favour or against small sectors. Rice milling is one such industry where choice is between modern big rice-mills and semi manually operated mills. Matches, soap, furnitures



readymade garments are some of the classic examples where clear policy guidance is called for. We in Bangladesh are pursuing a very pragmatic policy to ensure total synthesis between the small and large industries, and that one does not come into conflict with the other but compliment each other.

CSO: 4220/7322

# JSD EXECUTIVE SETS CONDITIONS FOR FAIR POLLING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 13 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The central executive committee of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) has announced a five-point demand for making the ensuring presidential polls free and fair.

The meeting of the JSD central executive committee presided over by Major (Retd). M. A. Jali, President of the JSD, passed a resolution containing five-point demand.

The demands are: (a) withdrawal of the State of Emergency, Sixth Amendment to the Constitution Special Powers Act, and the Press & Publications Ordinance (b) release of all political prisoners convicted under the martial law, ending of political harassments & withdrawal of warrants of arrests, (c) shifting of the date for presidential polls in the third week of November (d) equal coverage to all presidential candidates in the mass

communication media like newspapers, radio and television; (e) preparation of new voter lists and guarantee for neutral polling and counting of votes at every polling station.

The JSD central committee also called upon the Opposition political parties to endeavour to put up a common candidate in the coming presidential polls, if the Government fulfilled its five point demands.

The meeting decided that if the opposition political parties failed to put up a common candidate, then JSD would try to select a common candidate in consultation with like-minded political parties. If this move fails, JSD would try to nominate a common candidate on the basis of the three-party alliance, and if this also fails, then JSD would go for nominating its own candidate in the presidential polls.

CSO: 4220/7398

# COMMISSION ISSUES RULES FOR PRESIDENTIAL POLLING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 15 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt]

The Secretary of the Election Commission has been appointed as the Returning Officer. His office is located at Block Nos. 5 and 6, Gated Officers' Hostel, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dacca-7, says a Press release of the commission.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

A person is not qualified for election as President, if he

- (a) is less than thirty five years of age; or
- (b) is not qualified for election as member of Parliament; or
- (c) has been removed from the office of the President under the Constitution.

## PROCEDURE FOR FILING NOMINATION PAPERS

- (a) Any elector may propose or second the name of any person qualified for election to the office of President. Every proposer / seconder will have to indicate in the nomination papers his serial number in the electoral rolls. For convenience of scrutiny, the intending proposers and seconders are requested to submit certified copies of the relevant entries in the electoral rolls along with the nomination papers. Electoral rolls are being maintained in the offices of the Election Officers at the sub-divisional headquarters. It may be mentioned here that the electoral rolls of Dacca

Sadar sub-division including the Metropolitan area are available in the office of the Election Officers at 3/13, Liaquat Avenue, Dacca.

- (b) Every proposal shall be made by a separate nomination paper in the prescribed form, signed by the proposer and the seconder, and such form shall contain a declaration signed by the candidate himself that he has consented to the nomination and that he is not subject to any disqualification for being elected as President.
- (c) Every nomination paper shall be delivered on the nomination day between 7.30 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. by the candidate, his proposer or seconder or an agent authorised in this behalf in writing by the candidate, to the Returning Officer, who shall acknowledge the receipt of the nomination paper in writing specifying the date and time of receipt.
- (d) A person may be nominated by more than one nomination paper; provided that no elector shall subscribe to more than one nomination paper whether as proposer or seconder and if any elector subscribes to more than one nomination paper, all such nomination papers, except the one received first by the Returning Officer, shall be void. The Returning Officer shall endorse on the nomination

paper the name of the person presenting it and the date and time of its receipt. He shall also affix at a conspicuous place in his office a notice of every nomination paper received by him containing the particulars of the candidate, his proposer and seconder as shown in the nomination paper.

No nomination paper shall be accepted unless a sum of Taka five thousand is deposited in cash or by a receipt showing that the aforesaid sum has been deposited in favour of the Election Commission by the candidate or by any person on his behalf. The deposit shall be made at any branch of Bangladesh Bank or at a Government Treasury under the head "P-Deposits and Advances-Part II-Deposits not bearing interest-Civil Deposits-Deposits in connection with election."

## SCRUTINY

- (a) At the time of scrutiny, the candidates, their proposers and seconders and one person authorised in this behalf by each candidate, may attend. The Returning Officer shall give them reasonable opportunity for examining the nomination papers delivered to him.
- (b) The Returning Officer may reject any nomination paper if he is satisfied that :
  - i) the candidate is not qualified under the Constitution to be elected as President ;
  - ii) The candidate is for the time being disqualified for election or appointment to a public office and also for election as member of Parliament

under the Public Leaders (Improper Acquisition of Property) Regulation, 1977;

iii) the proposer or the seconder is not an elector;

iv) the conditions for delivery of nomination papers and deposits to be made under provisions 5 & 6, of the Presidential Election Ordinance, 1971, has not been complied with; or

v) the signature of the proposer or the seconder is not genuine;  
provided that —

i) the rejection of a nomination paper shall not invalidate the nomination of a candidate by any other valid nomination paper;

ii) the Returning Officer shall not reject a nomination paper on the ground of any defect which is not of substantial nature, and may allow such defect to be remedied forthwith; and

iii) the Returning Officer shall not enquire into the correctness or validity of any entry in the electoral roll.

- Appeal against rejection of nomination papers: ;

Where the nomination paper of a candidate has been rejected by the Returning Officer, an appeal shall lie within a period of three days to the Election Commission. Any order passed by the Election Commission on such appeal shall be final.

Forms of nomination papers are available in the office of the Election Commission. Intending persons may procure the same during office hours.



**MOST AWAMI LEAGUE LEADERS FOR POLLS PARTICIPATION**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Jul 81 pp 1, 16

[Text] The two-day extended meeting of the Central Committee of Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina) concluded on Tuesday evening. The last of the four sessions of the meeting was held at the Road No. 32, Dhanmondi residence of Bangobandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Tuesday evening. The meeting was presided over by Sheikh Hasina Wajed, President of the party.

During the course of the two-day meeting reports from 63 organisational districts out of 70 were placed. Besides district leaders members of the party's National Committee discussed present political situation the proposed Sixth Amendment to the Constitution and the ensuing presidential election.

The Central Working Committee meeting of the party will begin at 10 a.m. today (Wednesday) at the party central office. The decision regarding party's stand on the presidential election will be taken by the Working Committee today (Wednesday).

Majority of the districts were in favour of party's participation in the presidential election. But three conditions were put forward by district leaders. These are: shifting of poll date, lifting of Emergency and release of political prisoners.

Very few districts favoured participation in the election forming alliance with like minded parties. Majority opposed putting up joint candidates in the election.

The Working Committee decision is likely to be in line with the opinion expressed in the extended meeting.

If the Awami League (Hasina) Working Committee decides to contest the presidential election the Central Presidium and Secretariat is likely to be authorised to decide on the party candidate.

Meanwhile the extended meeting in a resolution reiterated party's demand for restoration of parliamentary form of government in the country. The resolution criticised the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution. It said when various political parties including AL(H) demanding holding presidential election under parliamentary form through amendment of the Constitution aimed at handing over power to people, the ruling party proposed amendment to the Constitution to enable their own candidate to contest the election.

The meeting condemned the proposed amendment and called upon all MP's political parties and the people to resist the amendment.

CSO: 4220/7322

AWAMI LEAGUE SETS CONDITIONS FOR POLL PARTICIPATION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Central Working Committee of Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina) in a resolution adopted in its two-day meeting said that the party is ready to accept any election challenge held in an atmosphere conducive to holding free and fair elections.

It has however set four conditions which in their view are preconditions to ensure free and fair elections. The resolution urged the Government to accept the conditions by July 31. The resolution did not specifically express party decision to participate in the ensuing presidential election and nothing was mentioned about any election alliance.

The conditions include immediate withdrawal of Emergency release of political prisoners convicted under Martial law an end of political harassment shifting of election date to November revision of electoral role to include new voters who has attained the age on the basis of the recent census equal facility in all media for all candidates ensuring freedom of the Press and use of Government transport and administrative machinery by ruling party candidate must be stopped.

The resolution urged all freedom loving democratic parties and elements to launch a movement to realise the conditions.

The Working Committee meeting concluded on Thursday. Party President Sheikh Hasina Wajed presided over the meeting. It was preceded by a two-day extended meeting of the Central Committee which concluded on Tuesday. During the extended meeting reports from 63 organisational districts were placed where district leaders favoured participation in the ensuing presidential election. More than half of the organisational districts opposed election alliance.

The Working Committee resolution demanded repeal of the Sixth Amendment to Constitution.

In support of the party demand for shifting election date the resolution said that September 21 will be the beginning of Bengali month of Aswin when two-third of the country will remain under water and in that condition election campaign would be difficult.

CSO: 4220/7329

ASAD COMMENTS ON AMENDMENT, SATTAR SPEECH

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan on Friday criticised the passage of the Sixth Constitution Amendment Bill and approval of the state of emergency by Parliament "keeping the Opposition outside the House" reports BSS.

In a statement in Dacca Mr. Khan observed that the Government had taken these steps to ensure the victory of the BNP nominee in the coming presidential elections 'by any means'.

The Leader of the Opposition expressed the fear that the continuation of the emergency would create a "reign of terror" in the country in a new way.

He said that the statement of the Prime Minister and Leader of the House in the Jatiya Sangsad on emergency was "misleading".

Mr. Khan pointed out that it was made clear in the promulgation of the state of emergency by the Acting President on May 30 that fundamental rights freedom of the Press, freedom of expression and professional freedom would remain suspended and that no one could seek protection of the court of law in this regard.

He said that the Prime Minister's statement on emergency was contrary to the speech given by the Acting President on June 8 last. The Leader of the Opposition said that in his speech the Acting President had said that normalcy had returned to the public life gradually. Mr. Kahn said that the government had already started making arrest and resorted to harassment throughout the country.

He called upon the people to resist the move designed to continue "dictatorial rule" in the country.

CSO: 4220/7329

HOUSE DEBATE ON SOVIET SMUGGLING INCIDENT REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 7 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] Following is the remaining part of the Jatiya Sangsad proceedings on Tuesday (23/6/81) as reported by BSS.

Soviet Equipment

As the House resumed its sitting after the maghreb prayer at 7.55 p.m. to take up the adjournment motion for discussion on the imported sophisticated electronic equipment by the Soviet Embassy, the visitor galleries opened.

The Speaker; Mirza Golam Hafiz was in the chair.

Leader of the Opposition Mr Asaduzzaman Khan took the floor and said that the adjournment motion on the airport incident as reported in Press did not give a clear idea as to what had actually happened there. He suggested that if the Leader of the House make an opening statement explaining the actual situation it would be helpful for discussion.

But the Treasury Bench members opposing the suggestion demanded that the discussion on the motion should begin forthwith.

Rising on a point of order; Mr Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury (ML) said that since the Adjournment Motion was moved and accepted for discussion and members should start discussion on it. The discussion should be followed by a statement by the Foreign Minister; he added.

Md Toaha

Mr Toaha also read out the report of newspaper on the incident and said that though the report was published on June 21 the Government had not contradicted it so far. This had led to an impression that the report was true.

Expressing indignation over the activities of the Soviet embassy; Mr Toaha said that this was not an isolated incident. He referred to the reaction of Soviet Union following the political change over in Bangladesh in 1975. He said that after 7th November political changes in Bangladesh the Kremlin had termed the government (which was continuation of present Government) as "Hostile" and commented that hostile government had grasped power in Bangladesh. He said



that as Soviet Russia maintained a hostile attitude towards Bangladesh the Indian spokesman at that time reacted that they did not remain silent spectator at the happenings in Bangladesh. He said that the events in Afghanistan and Indo-China were proof of the Soviet hegemonism in this part of the world.

Mr Toaha recalled the reported statement by the CPB leaders after Soviet intervention in Afghanistan that there would be an Afghan style revolution in Bangladesh. He said that though Lenin was against the export of revolution the present Kremlin leadership was exporting Russian revolution to different countries.

The Samyabadi Dal Member expressed his indignation over the behaviour of the Soviet embassy staff at the airport to forcibly take away the contraband items without producing valid documents and criticised the Government for failing to protest it at the appropriate time. He said that the Government should react strongly in order to preserve the national independence and sovereignty. He said that Bangladesh should pursue a strong foreign policy to preserve its independence. He proposed that an international front should set up with the countries of the region like Burma, Nepal and Bangladesh to oppose Soviet hegemonism and expansionism.

Md. Sirasul Huq

Participating in the adjournment motion. Mr. Mohammad Sirajul Huq (IDL) said that because of the submissive foreign policy, Bangabandhu had to give his life. This Government, he added, had been following the same path of submissive foreign policy.

Mr. Huq said that a conspiracy had begun against the country's independence and sovereignty. Before this, one aircraft carrying 133 armed persons came Bangladesh whose identity was still unknown, he added.

Referring to a news item in the weekly FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW he said it had published an item alleging that there were one hundred KGB agents in Bangladesh. He also referred to the allegation made by the then Information Minister Mr. Habibullah Khan that Soviet mission in Chittagong had been set up without permission.

Rashed Menon

Participating on the adjournment motion Mr. Rashed Khan Menon (GA) said that the nation had been living in a mysterious atmosphere. The nation is still in darkness about the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman. He said and added the people were kept in darkness too about the recent happenings involving the Soviet embassy in Dacca.

He pointed out that the nation was informed of the situation in South Talpatty on May 16 while India occupied the island on May 9 and said the same thing had happened with regard to Soviet equipment.

Mr. Menon said that the silence of the Government on the incident was meaningful because the Government wanted to utilise the situation for some political

purpose. Criticising the Government's failure to inform the people in due time of the incident he said it happened because of its weak policy.

He said, "We shall not tolerate an attack on our independence and sovereignty" and added, the Government should protest against the act of the Soviet embassy if it did not take permission to bring these items. He called for setting up a committee consisting of the Parliament members to make an enquiry into the incident because the allegation against the embassy is dangerous.

Sattar Khan

Speaking next Mr Abdus Sattar Khan Chowdhury (ML) said this adjournment motion. was very much linked up with our sovereignty and independence. He said it was a matter of grave concern for all of us that the Russian embassy here had brought in the country highly sensitive electronic equipment and illegal arms under the level of construction materials. He suspected that the Russian embassy had brought these materials for espionage purpose in this region.

Criticising the role of the Soviet Union in today's global politics Mr Abdur Sattar Khan Chowdhury said that the Union had been creating a reign of terror in many countries of the world to grab them one by one. In this connection he referred to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan Kampuchea and Eritrea and said that this super power had provoked bloodshed and unrest in the parts of the world to undermine their sovereignty.

The Muslim League Member condemned the role of the Soviet Union and called for slashing down the number of embassy staff of that country in Bangladesh. Our trade and other business with the Soviet Union were not so wide that warranted the presence of a large number of embassy staff here, he added.

He criticised the Government for its failure to inform the people of the incident in due time and said it manifested the weak foreign policy of our government, he said that the foreign policy of the nation of nine crore people should not submissive one he stressed.

Shahjahan Siraj

Participating in the discussion on the adjournment motion Mr Shahjahan Siraj (JSD) said that it would be really a matter of grave concern if the ITTAFaq report true that the Soviet had brought in highly sensitive electronic equipment without declaration under the level of construction materials.

He said we were noting with great dismay that the government always remained conspicuously silent on major important national issues. After some time when the Foreign Minister made statements these were so much full of jugglery of words that they were beyond our comprehension, he added.

The JSD leader pointed out that Bangladesh today had been the land of free movement for the foreigners and that the foreign policy of our country had almost become a failure.

He alleged that the intelligence net work of the country was today more busy to over see the activities of the opposition political parties to keep the ruling BNP in power than to look after the question of national security.

Mr Shahjahan Siraj accused the government of using many national problems for its political purpose and said that the government had handled the Farakka and South Talpatty issues would substantiate his allegation.

Mr Shahjahan Siraj asked the Government to desist from pursuing subservient foreign policy and hold correct investigation into the report of daily ITTEFAQ about the highly sensitive electronic equipment alleged to be brought by the Russian embassy here. He mentioned here that although the ITTEFAQ report did not mention about arms, Mr Toaha had alleged in his adjournment motion about it (arms). The matter should be thoroughly investigated to establish the truth. It should also be ascertained as to whether wireless set could be brought in by the foreign embassies here under diplomatic rule, he added.

He alleged that Bangladesh today had become the grazing ground for the foreigners for the 'weak and submissive foreign policy' of our government.

Razia Faiz

Speaking next Mrs Razia Faiz (ML) severely criticised the Soviet Union for its 'interference' in the internal affairs of the country. She said that the while bear had been proceeding towards us with its open claws in the same style as it had grabbed many small countries of the world. It was true that India and Soviet Union had helped us in 1971 but that did not mean that we had mortgaged our sovereignty and independence to them for that, she said.

Mrs Razia Faiz blamed the Government for 'withholding the report of importing the electronic equipment to the members of the public'. It is really said that our foreign ministry had failed to enlighten the public on such important national matter. Earlier the Government had also failed to inform the people about the inaction on South Talpatty. The government coincided the news of occupation of South Talpatty with the return of Sheikh Hasina Wazed to Bangladesh; she charged.

She wanted to know from the Government as to whether the foreign policy of Bangladesh was actually independent after the incidents of South Talpatty; killing of President Ziaur Rahman and import of highly sensitive electronic equipment in Bangladesh by the Russian embassy.

Muzaffar Ahmed

Prof Muzaffar Ahmed; chief of National Awami Party (Comilla) while participating in the adjournment motion said that CIA agents were in constant intrigue here as a result of which the newspaper infamous of its bias published the incident. The ruling party, he said chose a wrong horse to discharge the function while Mr Toaha (the Horse) transgressed the dotted line by mentioning in the adjournment motion about some 'weapons' which did not even appear in the news.

The whole issue has been stirred up to paint a cover up to the situation prevailing in the country following the killing of President Ziaur Rahman; he told the Sangsad.

Prof Ahmed demanded a clear cut statement from the government in the matter asking not to play clever with a super power like the Soviet Union.

He counselled the Government to go by the 'Vienna' convention rigidly and; if necessary; to take the issue to the United Nations and other forums.

He criticised the Muslim Leaguers for shedding unnecessary tears for Bangladesh who had the motive to become Quaid-e-Azams. Prof Ahmed claimed himself as a progressive nationalist and for which reason 'I went to the United Nations to focus the cause of the liberation of Bangladesh during the war. When of course; today's Leader of the House Shah Aziz and his party's Mr Zulmat Ali Khan also were at the United Nations to oppose us.

**Matin Meah**

Mr A Matin Meah (JSD) said that the incident of the international airport was not an isolated one.

Death of President Zia and other conspiratorial events testify that the country was facing successive international conspiracies.

He demanded a clear statement from the Government.

**Salahuddin Quader Chy**

Mr Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury (ML) warned of the motivated move to divide population into two sides as freedom fighters and non-freedom fighters.

The Opposition Muslim League Member dismissed the ramifications of super-patriot, patriots and under-patriots of the people anyone indulging in such a move is 'traitors' he said.

Mr Chowdhury called upon the Government to take clear and bold position in dealing with the issue of sovereignty vis-a-vis any super or a mini-power. By saying "appropriate measures were being taken", the Government must not be passed on, he cautioned.

Specific action must be taken by the way of making some of the Soviet embassy officials persona non grata lodging of protests and such other steps he asked the government.

Mr Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury said that the Soviet embassy here had not yet come out with any contradiction, which he believed, they could. It must be noted, he pointed out.

The Muslim League member reiterated his call to the Government to take the people into confidence so that they could come to know every bit and piece of the development of the entire incident and exercise their judgement as to who was a friend and who was not.

**A. S. M. Solaiman**

Participating on the discussion, Mr. A. S. M. Solaiman (Gano Front) criticised the NAP (M) chief, Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed for his open support to the Soviet Union. He said that it was for the first time that Prof. Ahmed 'behaved like a blind man.'



He criticised the Government for not informing the people of the real incident even after a week. He said that the Press should be given freedom and there should not be any interference in it from any quarters.

Criticising Mr Suranjit Sen Gupta (Ekota), Mr Solaiman said that Bengalees never forgot their friends. Gratitude did not mean that the friendly country would threaten the very independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh, he pointed out.

In this context, he referred to the forcible occupation of South Talpatty and said that the occupation Talpatty is not the sign of friendship.

Mr Solaiman also stated that many of the countries began behaving fishy with Bangladesh soon after it had protested against the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and pursuing friendly policy towards Islamic world.

Mr Solaiman, however, called upon the Government to pursue a strong foreign policy and said that if the small nation like Cuba could exist, it was possible for Bangladesh as well to exist with honour and sovereignty.

Abdur Rahim

Criticising the "weak" foreign policy of Bangladesh, Maulana Abdur Rahim (IDL) observed that if the Government pursued the submissive foreign policy she would not be able to protect her independence and sovereignty.

Referring to the unauthorised equipment of the Soviet Embassy which were seized at Dacca airport, Maulana said that it was a clear violation of international rules. This also proved that the Soviet Union was trying to threaten the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh, he added.

Maulana Rahim also alleged that the Soviet intelligence net work KGB, Indian intelligence RAW and United States CIA were active in Bangladesh.

These intelligence net-works, he pointed out, were responsible for all incidents inside the country.

He also blamed the Government for not having "conviction." Only the policy towards Islam and faith upon Allah could save country from the enemies, he added.

Asaduzzaman Khan

Participating in the discussion, Leader of the Opposition Mr Asaduzzaman Khan, wanted to know from the Foreign Minister specifically as to whether that specific aircraft was duly permitted by the Government for landing.

He also said that the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Embassy should clarify before the nation embassy officials tried to snatch away the materials. Whether Bangladesh officials had protested against unauthorised import of sensitive electronic on whether any illegal weapons were found inside the consignments.

He said that these questions should be clarified first.

Mr Khan said that the present government had failed to inform the incident to the people even after seven days of the happening. Following publication of this particular news item several political parties had condemned the incident but the Government did not give any Press Note clarifying the situation, he added.

The Leader of the Opposition also alleged that the Government was trying to divert the attention of the people from the real happenings in the country. He also alleged that leadership of the Acting President, was now in difficulties the Government under the of the Acting President, was now in difficulties and trying to shift the eyes of the people by misleading propaganda.

He called upon the Government not to create rifts with the countries like the Soviet Union, which was termed as the "friendly country" even by the Late President Ziaur Rahman.

The leader of the Opposition also wanted to know from the Foreign Minister as to whether the report of bringing arms by an embassy of Middle Eastern country was correct.

Prof Shamsul Huq

Foreign Minister Prof Shamsul Huq, said tonight that the Soviet Ambassador was summoned to foreign office yesterday to lodge a strong protest for the illegal and objectional activities of the embassy and also for the indecorous behavior of the embassy staff.

Replying to adjournment motion on the Soviet embassy's attempt to forcibly take delivery of the objectionable goods at the Dacca Airport last week. The Foreign Minister told the Jatiya Sangsad that the Soviet Ambassador had also been asked to take necessary corrective measures immediately.

Giving a actual statement on the airport incident involving the Soviet embassy, the Foreign Minister said, on June 6, the Soviet embassy in Dacca applied to the Foreign Ministry for exemption certificate to 140 boxes of house building materials and equipment. The application clearly mentioned that the proposed items would be used for repairing the embassy building and also to repair and replace old and unworkable electrical gadgets.

Prof Huq said that the Soviet embassy also informed the foreign ministry that the proposed cargo with necessary papers and documents would reach Dacca on the same flight of the Aeroflot on June 16. Soon after its arrival, the papers would be handed over to the ministry, the embassy assured.

The foreign Ministry Prof Huq said, informed the embassy that only after receiving the detailed description, weight and quantities of the cargo, order for unloading exemption for the cargo could be given.

The Foreign Minister said that Soviet Embassy had handed over a letter of dated June 4 to the ministry on June 16 mentioning that the proposed cargo would be 10 tons in weight, 60 cubic meter in width and approximately in 140 packets.

According to specification the cargo included sectional metal board, wooden stand (for the purpose) two switch boards of 270 kg electric unit cable pipe and beam and wooden plate. The embassy submitted along with the letter the air way bill which also described the 140 packets of 10 tons as containing house building materials.

Prof Huq said the following day (June 17) the Soviet Embassy in a note of June 16 informed its inability to furnish the ministry with full packing list and they agreed to open the boxes for customs checking in presence of the embassy officials. The foreign ministry arranged the checking on June 19 in presence of two representatives of the ministry in accordance with the international law and Vienna Convention. He said, authorities concerned and the embassy officials, were also present during the customs checking. He said and added that checking could not be finished in a day as the number of imported items were large.

The Foreign Minister said the officials of Soviet Embassy became excited when work on checking was in progress on the following day (June 20).

At least one of them (Soviet embassy officials) indulged in unbecoming behaviour', Prof Huq said and added that when a foreign office representative protested this indecorous behaviour the Soviet official expressed his regret.

The checking on the second day (June 20) revealed that the shipment contained some highly sensitive electronic gadgets which in no way for the category of house building materials. Prof Huq said adding that there was no mention of those equipment either in the air way bill or any document of the embassy.

The Foreign Minister categorically said importing of equipment was not necessary for normal activities of an embassy without permission. Attempt to take them out of the airport without permission and misbehaviour with a Government official constituted 'clear violation' of the laws of Bangladesh and the Vienna Convention.

Prof Huq told the House that the Soviet Ambassador in Dacca was summoned to foreign ministry under the circumstances on June 22 as June 24 was weekly holiday. A strong protest was lodged with him against the 'Illegal and objectionable' activities of the Soviet embassy and unbecoming behaviour of the personnel of the mission, he said.

He said the Ambassador was asked to take immediately corrective measures against such acts.

Drawing attention of the House the Foreign Minister said the Customs authorities at the airport succeeded in holding the truck and kept the imported items in the Customs sheds on guard through some Soviet embassy personnel entered the airport despite objection from officials on duty and started to take the materials on the truck. Then the Customs authorities awaited the foreign office permission, he said.

Secondly, he said a written protest was lodged against the illegal acts of the Soviet embassy and unbecoming behaviour of its personnel and demanding immediate corrective measures.

The Foreign Minister said the situation was now completely under the control of the authorities concerned.

The Foreign Minister said that the security measures had been meanwhile strengthened.

He said that the subject matter of today's adjournment motion was unfortunately centred round an unpleasant incident.

He said the situation has been effectively faced in keeping with the international law and added the interests of the state has been fully protected.

The Foreign Minister told the House that the criticism of the foreign policy was "completely baseless" and declared that the Government was determined to protect the sovereignty of the country.

Replying to a question raised by Muslim League Mr M A Matin the Foreign Minister informed the House that the seized goods of the Soviet embassy at the airport had remained under government custody. He said that according to Vienna convention the objectionable items were their countries. We will also follow the same convention, he said.

As soon as the Foreign Minister resumed his seat, Deputy Leader of Opposition Mr Mohiuddin Ahmed wanted to know from the Minister if there was any arms in the boxes as mentioned by Mr Toaha in his motion. But the Members in the Treasury Bench shouted at him leading to hot altercations between them. The Leader of Opposition Mr Asaduzzaman Khan also tried to say something but had to resume his seat amid shouts.

The mover of the motion Mr Toaha said that as pen is mightier than sword. The sophisticated electronic equipment sometime becomes more powerful than arms. He refuted the allegation made by Prof Muzaffar Ahmed against him and said that as a patriot he (Toaha) himself had moved the adjournment motion.

At this stage, Mr Mohiuddin Ahmed tried to say something but was again shouted down. He said that the Treasury Bench members should have patience to listen to Opposition statement.

The Speaker Mirza Gofar Hafiz then announced in the House that the adjournment motion of Mr Toaha been talked out.

The House was adjourned at 10-05 p.m. to meet again at [number illegible] 30 a.m. tomorrow.

CSO: 4220/7321



DEMOCRATIC JUBO FRONT CONDEMNS 'INDO-SOVIET AGENTS'

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 6 Jul 81 p 8

[Text] Speakers at a meeting of the Democratic Jubo Front at Tejgaon on Sunday condemned 'the Awami Jubo League and other Indo-Soviet agents' for conspiring to render Bangladesh friendless.

Presided over by Mr. Abedur Rahman, the meeting criticised the Awami Jubo League for their attitude towards the friendly visit of some Pakistani ministers to Bangladesh. They alleged that these people remained totally silent about Indo Soviet conspiracy against our independence and sovereignty.

The speakers said that when the country was facing serious political crisis and its border was being threatened by the Indian invasion, the agents of Indo-Soviet axis had been trying to divert the attention of the people by concocting baseless stories.

The Democratic Jubo Front leaders said that when the entire country expressed indignation over the illegal import of contraband items by the Soviet Embassy in Bangladesh these agents saw in it a game of the CIA. Even they criticised the daily which carried the story about the activities of the Soviet embassy.

The Jubo Front leaders said that in order to make Bangladesh friendless, these paid agents carried out vilification campaign during the recent visit of the Chinese Prime Minister.

The meeting called upon the people to understand the real game of the Indo-Soviet agents and stand against the conspiracy against our independence and sovereignty.

CSO: 4220/

**BANGLADESH**

**EMBASSY IN KARACHI DENIES REPORT ON BORDER TROOPS**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Islamabad July 19:--The Bangladesh Embassy here today dismissed as "bogus" a report yesterday that Islamabad had secretly proposed to Dacca that it station 1,00,000 Pakistani troops along the Bangladesh-Indian border reports AFP.

Commenting on the report published as a leading article in the New Delhi newspaper THE NEW HERALD close to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi the Embassy said that nobody would imagine that Bangladesh would accept foreign troops on its soil".

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman described the report as ridiculous and lacking any basis in fact" and recalled that Islamabad and Dacca had recently denied rumours of a planned federation between their two countries.

In a lead story titled "Pak Troops for Indo-Bangladesh Border" the Indian English-language daily quoting intelligence reports said the proposal was made by a Pakistani Ministerial delegation which recently visited Dacca.

CSO: 4220/7419

AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO SARKIS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh Ambassador to Lebanon Mr. Humayun Kabir presented his credentials to President Elias Sarkis in Beirut on Saturday, according to a message received in Dacca on Sunday, reports BSS.

The message said, due to Israeli bombing on Beirut on Friday resulting in 143 deaths, the ceremonial part of ceremony was cancelled at the Ambassador's request. But despite heavy preoccupation with the mounting crisis, President Sarkis received Ambassador Kabir on schedule and cordially talked to him for half an hour.

Lebanese Prime Minister Mr. Shaik Wazzan was present during the presentation of the credentials by the new Bangladesh Ambassador.

Speaking on the occasion President Elias Sarkis expressed deep concern over the deterioration of situation in South Lebanon with escalation of Israeli aggression over last few days and urged the international community to act quickly before a major conflagration engulfs the area. He stressed on the need for frustrating conspiracies designed to thwart Arab resistance and the cause of the Palestinians.

Conveying his greetings to Acting President Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar, President Sarkis expressed satisfaction at receiving new Ambassador of Bangladesh, reestablishing contacts and hoped for close and fraternal cooperation between Lebanon and Bangladesh in all spheres. He recalled with emotion his meeting with ex-President Zia in Taif summit and the dynamic role he played in the Non-aligned and Islamic Conference movements.

The Ambassador conveyed fraternal greetings from Acting President Government and people of Bangladesh and expressed sympathies with the sufferings of the Lebanese people living under difficult and delicate situation. He reiterated support of Bangladesh for efforts now underway to promote national reconciliation in Lebanon on the basis of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

CSO: 4220/7419

EIGHTEEN-PARTY ALLIANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN POLLS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] The 18-party Opposition alliance would participate in the forthcoming presidential election as part of the national movement for restoring parliamentary democracy and realising the rights of the people, Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan, Chief of the Jatiyo League said in Dacca on Sunday reports BSS.

The component parties of the alliance were continuing discussions among themselves for setting up a suitable candidate for the election "which we would like to contest unitedly", he said.

Mr. Khan was speaking at a reception given in his honour at a local hotel by a group of citizens who ostensibly wanted him to contest in the presidential election as an Opposition candidate.

The Jatiyo League leader reiterated his demand for shifting the polls date to November to give the Opposition parties the scope for preparation and campaign.

The reception was attended among others by Mr. Md. Toaha M.P. and Chief of the Shamyabadi Dal, Mr. Tofazzal Ali, Chief of Muslim League (T. Ali group), Mr. Abdul Haque, Independent member of Parliament Mr. Abdur Rahman and Mr. Ansari, leader of Democratic League Mr. Sirajul Hossain Khan of the Gonotrantrik Party and Mr. Shafiul Alam Prodhan of Jatiyo Ganotantrik Party.

Advocate Abdus Sobhan, a leader of the Jatiyo League spoke on behalf of the organisers of the reception which was followed by an iftar party.

CSO: 4220/7419



HOUSE BILL PROVIDES FOR ELECTION CASE TRIALS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] The Jatiya Sangsad on Friday passed the People's Representation (Amendment) Bill 1980 providing for speedy trial of the election cases by tribunals within six months.

The Opposition members including Mr. Suranjit Sengupta Mr A. S. M. Solaiman and Mr. Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury criticised the Government for moving this Bill. They alleged that the passing of this Bill was related to the presidential election and with this law the ruling party would threat the members. They also alleged that there was no scope of appeal against the verdict of the tribunals.

Replying to the criticism the State Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Mr. A. Salam Talukder said that the Bill had not been moved hurriedly to serve the election purpose. The Bill was moved in 1980 to expedite the election cases which remained pending for years together he informed. He also said that it was not true that there was no right of appeal against the judgement of the Tribunal. The aggrieved party can appeal in the higher courts he said.

CSO: 4220/7329

GUINEA PREMIER HOLDS AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Lansana Beavogui said in Dacca on Thursday night that everything would be done to further strengthen the solidarity and fraternal cooperation between Guinea and Bangladesh in all fields reports BSS.

The Guinean leader was talking to newsmen at the Kurmitola Airport before departure for home concluding visit to Bangladesh to pay homage to Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman on behalf of President Sekou Toure and the government and people of Guinea.

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman saw him off at airport.

Premier Beavogui who was accompanied by Guinea Foreign Minister Al-Haj Abdoulaye Toure said 'we had come with the message of solidarity unity and cooperation which must be strengthened in all fields including political economic social and cultural between the two countries.

He said we are now following the path of cooperation set by President Ziaur Rahman and President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

The visiting Premier said that the two countries would go for more exchanges of delegations for increased cooperation in various fields.

Premier Beavogui said that President Zia and President Sekou Toure were friends and brothers and added that a common ideology and objective of welfare of the people of the two countries bound Guinea and Bangladesh on a solid basis.

He added that but for the geographical distance the two countries could be united.

The Prime Minister said that he and Foreign Minister of Guinea had come to Bangladesh to convey the condolences to the people the government and people of Guinea.

Also present at the airport to see a off the Guinea leaders were Deputy Prime Minister Mr S A Bari AT Secretary General of BNP Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury Cabinet Ministers Mayor of Dacca Mr Abul Hasnat members of the diplomatic corp and senior officials.

CSO: 4220/7330

AGRICULTURE MINISTER GIVES PLANTING STATISTICS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Ten lakh acres of land were brought under intensive jute cultivation during the current season in the country, Minister for Agriculture and Forests Dr Fasihuddin Mahtab informed the Jatiya Sangsad on Friday.

Answering a written question by Mr Almas Hossain (BML) Mr Mahtab said that under the intensive jute cultivation programme government also supplied 20 thousand maunds of jute seeds among the farmers.

Replying to another question by Mr Ukil Shahadat Hossain Choudhury (BNP) the Agriculture Minister said that about 10.50 lakh maunds of potato were produced in the country during 1980-81. The figure was 1.47 lakh tons higher than the production of the previous year. The per acre yield of potato in 1979-80 was 103.08 maund on average. While the total land under potato cultivation was 2.38 lakh acres.

He also told the same questioner that 37,815 power pumps were used during 1979-80 commanding 14.91 lakh acres of land for irrigation.

Replying to another question from Mr S A Khalek (BNP) the Agriculture Minister said that it was not true that the use of fertilizers were declining in the country. He told the Sangsad that a total of 876,692 tons of different fertilizers were sold during January to December 1980. During January to June 1981 402,202 tons of fertilizers were sold while during the same period in 1980 402,128 tons were distributed.

CSO: 4220/7330

UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION PROGRAM STRENGTHENED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jul 81 p 3

[Text] About 5,000 Education Officers will be posted to the country's 472 thanas in the next three months in an intensified drive to get more children into schools.

The new officers will consolidate the universal primary education programme.

The programme was launched last year and the aim then was to spread its concept to all the thanas. Now it has been found necessary to strengthen the programme with the addition of the new batch of 5,000 officers.

About 10 to 12 of these officers will be stationed in each thana and it is envisaged that not more than 20 primary schools. (At present an officer has to look after about 75 primary schools in a thana.)

The new officers will be responsible for overall development of primary education in the areas they are based. To achieve this aim they will have to ensure that schools are being properly managed and supervised.

The yearly enrolment into Class one has been at an average of about 40 per cent.

Poverty has been generally blamed for the poor enrolment of school children but there is also a psychological problem to be overcome.

Said a BBEIS officer: "Society must be made to realise that illiteracy is a curse. But there is a psychological barrier which hinders this realisation. Our task is to break the barrier."

This is not easy but the Education Officers will be tackling this job more vigorously by frequent visits to the parents. They will see that parents are constantly reminded and encouraged to have their children sent to schools. The officers will also provide tuition to the children.

But a bigger task is to ensure that children do not drop out after two years of schooling. About 55 per cent of them drop out before reaching class three compared to 11 per cent from class three to five.

Said an officer of the Bangladesh Bureau of Education, Information and Statistics (BBEIS): "We must try to keep these children in schools for at least three years. That is the minimum education they should be given."



But the Government plans to ensure that out of the estimated 14.20 million school-going age children about 12.99 million will go to schools by 1985.

In the last six years (from 1975 to 1980), the number of children in primary schools has not shown any marked increase. In 1975 it was 8.35 million which slightly increased to 9.48 million in 1976.

The following year the total dropped to 9.02 million and from 1978 to 1980 it stayed constant at about 8.23 million. This year the total stood at [as published]

Last year steps have been taken to give further aid to children by providing free uniforms to the girls in the rural schools and free books to all pupils.

About 30 per cent of the girls have benefitted from the free uniforms and about 50 per cent of both sexes from the free books.

The free book scheme launched last year does not cover the 40 thanas under the care of the International Development Agency (IDA). The IDA is financing the free books to the 0.9 million school children in these thanas.

There is also a plan to provide free tiffin lunch to the children but the cost of such a scheme might be too prohibitive to be practicable.

Besides pupils, teachers too will come under closer watch as there have been reports of teachers, especially those in remote area, who were not serious in their work.

"Education Officers did not have the time to visit these faraway places and so the teachers took advantage of it by not teaching the children properly," said a Mass Education Officer. It is hoped that with the enlarged network of Officers, the problem can be solved.

With a literacy rate of about 28 per cent, Bangladesh is aiming to raise it to 100 per cent by 1985. The officers and the teachers may not achieve this enviable objective but as one Officer put it: "If we can achieve a literacy rate of 60 per cent by 1985, our efforts have not been wasted."

CSO: 4220/7403

TOAHA CALLS FOR UNITY OF LEFTIST FORCES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Jul 81 p 12

[Text] Chairman of Sammayabadi Dal Mohammad Toaha MP on Friday called for forging firm unity of all leftist political parties to build up a strong alternative political force in the country reports ENA.

An alternative political force with the left political parties can only guarantee a "desired parliament" and "a Government accountable to the people" he told a seminar on the present political situation in the country and our duty.

Presiding over the seminar organised by his party at Mahbub Ali Institute the Sammayabadi Dal chief also underscored the need for organising the "proletariat and peasants" of the country and building up their political leadership.

Mohammad Toaha said the present politics in Bangladesh is dominated by "petty bourgeoisie" due to the absence of strong working class and peasant's organisation. So the present political leadership could not advance the country to progress he added.

He said "we have no alternative but to build up leadership of the workers peasants and the toiling masses who constitute ninety per cent of the population of the country". "It is the peasants workers commonman who saved this country from two severe crises" Toaha said.

In this connection he referred to the capture of power by Khaled Mosharraf on November 3, 1975 and said the commonman became disappointed that day and did not support him as they thought Khaled Mosharraf would not bring any good to the nation". But on November 7 the same year the same people staged a spontaneous revolution and brought Zia to power.

Referring to the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman on May 30 Mohammad Toaha said the people of this country were aggrieved at this tragic incidence and viewed that the killing of Zia would not bring any good to the country. They faced up the national crisis unitedly.

The seminar was also participated by Mr. Yakub Ali General Secretary of Sammayabadi Dal Mr. Nur-e-Alam Ziku Organising Secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and advocate Luthful Alam a leader of Sammayabadi Dal.

CSO: 4220/7329

JATIYA EKOTA CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 10 Jul 81 p 8

[Text] A two-day extended meeting of the central committee of Jatiya Ekota Party (JEP) was held on Thursday with Syed Altaf Hossain in the chair.

Messrs Abdul Halim, Zakir Ahmed, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Saiful Islam Iqbal Ahmed Chowdhury, Dr Shahadat Hossain and other leaders of the party were present in the meeting.

The meeting criticised ruling party for passing 6th Amendment of the Constitution aimed at enabling a particular person of a particular party to seek nomination in the ensuing presidential election.

The meeting through a resolution reiterated its belief in parliamentary form of government making parliament a sovereign and responsible to the people on the basis of 1972 constitution prior to Fourth Amendment is best suited to our country in the present circumstances.

The meeting also resolved that the issue of participation in the presidential election should be resolved in close cooperation and understanding between those political parties which firmly believed in the values of national liberation struggle, principles of nationalism, democracy, socialism and secularism as enshrined in the constitution.

The meeting put up three conditions for its participation in the ensuing presidential election. They are: shifting of the date, lifting emergency and releasing political prisoners and equal amenities to the candidates to all parties.

The meeting also expressed concern at the deteriorating economic condition of the country.

CSO: 4220/7327

BANGLADESH

PEOPLE'S PARTY OFFICIAL MEETS PRESS ON JOINING BNP

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mr. A. K. M. Golam Kabir Vice-Chairman of the United People's Party (UPP) on Friday joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) having been inspired by the ideals of late President Ziaur Rahman.

He said that he was inspired by the philosophy of Bangladeshi Nationalism national unity and 19-point programme of the party as laid down by the late President.

He was speaking at a Press conference at BNP Secretariat Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman who is also Vice-Chairman of the BNP and Professor A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Secretary-General of the party and other central leaders of BNP were present at the Press conference.

Terming those who had earlier joined the BNP as progressive minded Mr. Kabir expected that more people will join the party through its correct evaluation.

Praising late President Zia Mr. Kabir said that the reality and truth must be acknowledged. He said that President Zia through his tireless efforts had shown the way to self-reliance.

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman and Dr. A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury Secretary-General of the party congratulated Mr. Kabir and hoped that more will join the party in due course.

Addressing the newsmen Mr. Kabir said that political difference with the UPP was the main reason for his resignation from the party earlier on July 1. He further said that he sharply differed on the UPP's evaluation of late President Ziaur Rahman.

In reply to a question Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said that the trial of the murder of President Zia was being conducted according to Army rules under the Field General Court Martial. The existing Army rules have to be changed first if the question of changing the court procedure arises he added. He said that these Army laws and rules are prevalent in most of the democratic countries including Great Britain. Regarding the election date Shah Azizur Rahman said that he personally did not think that the date would be shifted.

BSS adds: Mr. Kabir said that only the BNP could safeguard the national sovereignty preserve the multi-party democracy and establish a society free from



exploitation. The people were looking forward to BNP for alternative leadership to Zia he emphasised.

He called upon the all progressive democratic and nationalist forces and people of the country to join the BNP for the realisation of the cherished national objectives.

Paying tributes to the late President Mr. Kabir said the national would remember him forever for his patriotism and contribution to the Liberation War and restoration of democracy in the country. During the rule of President Ziaur Rahman, the Press enjoyed freedom the Opposition political parties received polished treatment judiciary was free and moreover no repressive policy was followed towards the political opponents.

He accused the Opposition parties of their failure to give proper leadership to the nation in the political vacuum created by the death of President Ziaur Rahman. He also disagreed with the Opposition contention that President Zia could not give any sense of direction to the people and pointed out that Bangladeshi nationalism peaceful revolution and the 19-point programme had shown the way for national development.

CSO: 4220/7411

RESOLUTION ON ACCUSED ASSASSINS' RIGHTS ILLEGAL

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Five members of Supreme Court Bar Association in a joint statement termed the resolution of the association demanding "rights for the accused persons in President Zia's killing for choosing their advocates for defence" as illegal.

They said that the "so called requisition meeting" of the association was called with three hours' notice instead of requisite three days' notice. This they said was done to serve the purpose of a "certain quarter". They expressed their surprise at the resolution published in the name of the association.

The five signatories in their statement said that about two hundred advocates were unanimous to adjourn the meeting for three days to place the resolution before a general meeting after considering it in a committee. When the advocates were leaving the meeting Mr. Md. Yasin President of the meeting spoke to them to ascertain who were in favour of the resolution and in the pandemonium he declared that 46 votes were in favour of the resolution but the negative votes were not counted the signatories alleged. The name of the association should not have been misused they said.

The signatories in the statement are Advocate Syed Sirajul Huda Advocate Giasuddin Bhuiyan Advocate Abu Salek Advocate Moazzem Hossain and Advocate Nizamuddin Haider.

CSO: 4220/7411

### THREE-PARTY ALLIANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 18 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Leaders of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Bangladesh Workers' Party and Sramik-Krishak Samajbadi Dal in a collective Press Conference on Friday announced their decision to participate at the ensuing Presidential elections, subject to certain preconditions.

Present at the Press conference were, among others, Major (Retd.) M A Jalil and Mr. A S M Abdur Rab, President and General Secretary of JSD, respectively, Mr. Haider Akbar Khan Rano and Mr. Rashed Khan Menon, MP, General Secretary and Central Committee member, respectively, of the Workers' Party and Messrs Siddiqur Rahman and Nirmal Sen of Sramik-Krishak Samajbadi Dal.

The leaders of the Three-Party Alliance, which Major (Retd.) M A Jalil styled as a "leftist alliance", said that they were announcing their participation at the coming Presidential polls on the assumption that their preconditions would be met by the Government.

Mr. Rashed Khan Menon, MP, read out a statement to newsmen on behalf of the three-party alliance.

The three party alliance has called for shifting of the date for presidential elections to sometime in November, withdrawal of the state of emergency, the sixth amendment to the Constitution, the Special Powers Act and the Press and Publications Ordinance, release of all political prisoners and an end to persecution of political opponents and all sorts of Police oppression, as well as drawing up of a new voters' list with a view to including those who had attained voting rights since the preparation of the last voters' list.

Major M A Jalil suggested later, while replying to a question, that the three-party alliance devoutly wished that all Opposition political parties backed one, single candidate in the coming Presidential polls as a symbol of the solidarity of the democratic forces in the country.

Mr A. S. M. Abdur Rab told a questioner that the three-party alliance had not announced a deadline for the Government to fulfil its demand. The alliance would decide upon its course of action, if and when the Government failed to meet its demands, he said.

Both Major (Retd) M. A. Jalil and Mr A. S. M. Abdur Rab refused to say if the 10-party alliance had died its logical death. Major (Retd) Jalil told his questioner that the 10-party alliance was merely "an alliance based on certain issues", while the three-party alliance was "a front for the purpose of fighting an election".

Asked what was the purpose of the current Press conference, since the leaders of the three-party alliance did not apparently have anything new to say, Mr Rashed Khan Menon said, "we arranged this Press conference primarily to announce our collective decision to fight the elections; and this announcement coincided with the launching of the election campaign of the BNP candidate Justice Abdus Sattar." Mr Menon added, "this Press conference would indicate that our hat is in the ring too".

The three-party leaders also expressed their sentiments over the current racial violence in England and the trial of the persons accused of involvement in the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman by a Field General Court Martial.

Major (Retd) M. A. Jalil also criticised the Government for its alleged design to eliminate the freedom fighters from all important sectors of national life. He pointed out that recently the present government had "ousted two freedom fighters from the Council of Ministers". He cautioned that such moves of the Government would neither be accepted by the people nor allowed to go unchallenged in future.

CSO: 4220/7413



SHEIKH HASINA MEETS PRESS ON DEPARTURE FOR LONDON

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 18 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Sheikh Hasina Wazed, President, Bangladesh Awami League (H) hinted on Friday that her party, following the measure of her late father had taken, would reduce the number of newspapers in the country, if it went into power.

Talking to newsmen at the Dacca international airport prior to her departure for London, Sheikh Hasina asserted that there was virtually no freedom of the press in the country since most of the newspapers were directly or indirectly controlled by the Government. She alleged that most of the national dailies were not reporting correctly the activities of her party.

Asked if the Awami League would show as much of tolerance and press freedom as enjoyed by the press during the regime of President Zia, the Awami League chief posed a counter question and wanted to know what the questioner meant by the freedom of Press. "Is there any freedom of the press in the country?" she asked.

Asked whether she would ban all the national dailies except four as her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman did, Mrs Hasina said, "Is there any justification of keeping so many newspapers? How many people read newspapers? Do you know how much newsprint is consumed for this?"

The Awami League chief said that during her return journey she would stop in India, stay there for some days and visit the holy shrine of Hazrat Moinuddin Chishti.

When her attention was drawn to the fact that she was visiting Britain when that country was witnessing serious racial riots, Mrs Hasina said that she might discuss the racial problem with the British authorities.

Asked whether her party would take part in the presidential election, Mrs Hasina Wazed said that Awami League was never opposed to election. "We have put forward four conditions to ensure free and fair polls. We shall win the election if it is free and fair".

When her attention was drawn to rumour that she was going to settle her personal differences with her nuclear physicist husband who reportedly did not like her involvement in politics, Mrs Hasina described the rumour as baseless.

When asked whether the Awami League would favour putting a common opposition candidate, Mrs Hasina said that her party was not against unity.

During her stay in London, Mrs Hasina will discuss the assassination case of her father" with the Amnesty International. Asked whether she considered the demand of trial of her father's killing as contradictory when some people who went to power after killing of Sheikh Mujib were still beside her, Sheikh Hasina said, "sometimes situation compels one to act against one's will. Situation changes. Nothing is permanent in politics, she said.

Mrs Hasina is expected to stay out of the country for about 10 days. She was seen off at the airport by her party leaders and workers.

CSO: 4220/7413

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD LEADERS ISSUE STATEMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 18 Jul 81 p 8

[Text] Lt Col (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman and Mr K. M. Mahbubul Alam, Chairman and a member of the Secretariat of the Central Command Council of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad in a statement on Friday alleged that charges were brought against the Central Command Council of the Sangsad for launching movement against the "enemies of the independence."

They said that Mr Faruk-i-Azam a member of the Secretariat of the Central Command Council of the Sangsad was arrested on June 6 last on these charges and he was released on July 10. They said that a warrant of arrest was issued against the Secretary General of the Sangsad Mr Nayeem Jahangir which was not yet withdrawn.

The signatories to the statement demanded withdrawal of charges against the central leaders of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad. They also demanded punishment of those who were engaged in the conspiracy to accuse the freedom fighters and patriots.

Meanwhile, Gen (Retd) M. A. G. Osmany in a statement on Friday said that his attention was drawn to the information regarding the "threat of applying Special Powers Act on the leaders of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad for their statement against the Jamat-i-Islami." He said "the collaborators should not take our patience and patriotism as our weakness." He called upon all freedom fighters to unite.

CSO: 4220/7413

DACCA DENIES MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD ALLEGATIONS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Jul 81 pp 1, 16

[Text] The Government on Saturday categorically denied allegations by certain political leaders that Muktiyoddha Sangsad leaders have been singled out for action against them for launching an agitation against a particular political party as "politically motivated and without any foundation" reports BSS.

In a Press Note issued on Saturday the Government hoped that the political leaders would desist from making statements that are likely to encourage violence by one group of people against another.

In consonance with its avowed policy to promote national solidarity and security of the country, the Government is taking and will continue to take action only against those elements irrespective of party affiliations who will create situations affecting law and order or commit prejudicial acts that are likely to endanger public safety or the maintenance of public order the Press Note added.

The following is the Press Note:

"Attention of the Government has been drawn to a news item published in a section of the local Press on July 18 containing statements of certain political leaders alleging that Government have singled out the leaders of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad for action against them for launching an agitation against a particular political party.

"In this connection the Government would like to state categorically that the allegations made in the aforesaid statements are politically motivated and without any foundation. The Government is taking and will continue to take action only against those elements irrespective of party affiliations who are bent upon creating situations affecting law and order or committing such prejudicial acts as are likely to endanger public safety or the maintenance of public order. This is in consonance with the avowed policy of the Government to promote national solidarity and security of the country. The Government has no intention to mete out any discriminatory treatment whatsoever against any party not to speak of the freedom fighters who are very dear to the people and whose heroic parts played during the Liberation War and the sacrifices made by them would always be remembered by the entire nation with deep gratitude.

"The Government hopes that the political leaders will desist from making statements as are likely to encourage violence by one group of people against another".

CSO: 4220/7415

BSEC CHAIRMAN DESCRIBES NEW ELECTRICAL PLANT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Chittagong General Electric Manufacturing (GEM) plant has sold 2600 pieces of electric transformers worth Taka 6 crore to Bangladesh Power Development Board Dr. Nazrul Islam Chairman of the Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) said in Dacca on Saturday.

Dr. Nazrul Islam told BSS that the plant an enterprise of the BSEC which went into commercial production last year produced about 2800 pieces of transformers during the same year. At present he added technical knowhow is being procured from the USSR and South Korea for the plant.

The BSEC Chairman said that government had been trying to procure knowhow from other sources also so that the plant's products could be made competitive in the local as well as in the markets abroad.

He said that besides transformers, other electrical products like circuit breaker fuses and nuts and bolts could be produced in the plant to meet the entire requirements of the country. Silver electro-plating and chromium plating and fabrication work like sheet cutting and bending facilities are available for the public in the plant, he added.

Dr. Nazrul Islam said that the plant would be able to meet the requirements of the Power Development Board and Rural Electrification Board in near future. The plant is expected to produce over 7,500 pieces of transformers during the current fiscal year, he added.

Turning to the Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory (BMTF) another enterprise of the corporation in Joydevpur, the BSEC Chairman said that the factory which went into commercial production last fiscal year had the facilities or machining casting forging heat treatment surface treatment fixtures and tool manufacturing die making and pattern making.

He said that during the financial year 1979-80 goods worth Taka 1.03 crore were produced while in the last fiscal year production of goods went up to Taka 10.77 crore.

CSO: 4220/7415



BSS REPORTS COMMERCE MINISTER'S ACTIVITIES IN PRC

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] State Minister for Commerce Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky now on an official visit to China on Friday called on Mr. Gu Mu Vice-Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China in the Great Hall in Peking reports BSS.

Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky according to a message received in Dacca on Saturday from Peking discussed with the Vice-Premier vital issues of mutual interest in the field of trade and commerce.

Also mentioned about the two countries common approach to various international issues like North-South dialogue global round or negotiations new international economic order and also about China's continued support to the group of 77 as well as for the cause of Least Developed countries.

The State Minister also discussed with the Chinese Vice-Premier the ever increasing happy relation that exists between the two countries in various fields specially in the field of foreign trade and commerce.

The Chinese Vice-Premier expressed satisfaction at the successful of trade negotiations between the two countries and hoped that trade between them would develop further in the coming years. He stated that both the countries were facing common problems and the difficult task of producing enough food grains to meet the requirements of their respective people as well as to curb the population growth by adopting effective measures of family planning.

He lauded the policy of the late President Ziaur Rahman to assign highest priority to the development of agriculture and production of foodgrain.

Mr. Gu Mu paid rich tributes to the late President Ziaur Rahman who he observed had made great contribution to the development of friendship between Bangladesh and China. He described late President Zia as a good friend of the Chinese Government and people.

CSO: 4220/7415

DACCA OFFERS REWARD FOR ALLEGED ASSASSINS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Jul 81 p 16

[Text] Government has declared a reward of Taka two lakh each for the arrest of two absconding Army officers dead or alive for their involvement in the gruesome murder of President Ziaur Rahman in Chittagong on May 30 last, says a PID handout.

The officers are Major S. M. Khaled and Major Mohammad Mozaffor Hossain. They were among the accomplices of Major General M. A. Manzoor who masterminded the brutal killing of the President.

Major Moinul Islam was involved in the gruesome murder of President Ziaur Rahman at Chittagong Circuit House on May 30 last. He was among the accomplices of Major General M. A. Manzoor who masterminded the brutal killing of the President.

Major Moinul Islam is still absconding and needs to be apprehended immediately.

CSO: 4220/7415

BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH RED CROSS TEAM LEAVES FOR DPRK

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Jul 81 p 16

[Text] A two-member Red Cross delegation headed by the Chairman of the Bangladesh Red Cross Society Mr. Justice Shahbuddin Ahmed left Dacca on Friday night for Bangkok en route to Pyongyang (North Korea) on a good will mission.

The delegation including the Managing Board member Dr. Sakhawat Hussain who is also the Secretary General of the National anti Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh (NATAB) will during the trip also visit Japan and the People's Republic of China.

During the visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the delegation which is making the trip on an invitation from the Chairman of the North Korean Red Cross Society will hold discussion on mutual interests of the two societies.

Before his departure the chairman of the Bangladesh Red Cross Society told BSS that he would hold discussion with his North Korean counterpart on the mutual interest of the two society. He said that his visit would strengthen the bond of friendship and cooperation existing between the Bangladesh Red Cross Society and the North Korean Red Cross Society.

He said that he would also visit Japanese Red Cross Society and the Red Cross Society of the People's Republic of China on way to and back from Pyongyang. He will also hold discussions with the leaders of the Red Cross Societies of these two countries on mutual cooperation.

The delegation will return on August 4.

CSO: 4220/7416

# PRIME MINISTER SAYS NO PLAN FOR ISLAMIC REPUBLIC

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 4 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad on Friday that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was not thinking in terms of changing the nomenclature of the People's Republic of Bangladesh into an Islamic republic.

"Personally I am not in favour of changing the name. Nomenclature does not matter. Let us improve our character and follow religious teachings", he said.

He was replying to a point of order raised by the Ekota Party member Suranjeet Sengupta where he had submitted that the Prime Minister had encouraged a move to change the nomenclature of the state by saying that "whether or not Bangladesh will be an Islamic Republic depends on the will of the people".

Mr Sengupta said that the statement of the Prime Minister was a clear violation of the Constitution which he was pledgebound to defend. He had also violated the oath of office and party principle. The statement was also an attack on the country's sovereignty and as such the Prime Minister had no right to remain in office, Mr Sengupta said.

Replying to the point of order, the Prime Minister said that the Constitution itself contained provisions for necessary amendments. "No Constitution is Quran or Bible which cannot be changed or amended. The will of the people is also not static".

The Prime Minister said that any provision of the Constitution could be changed, amended, omitted or incorporated by an act of the Parliament. However, any amendment of the state principles needed people's verdict in the form of referendum, he said.

He said, "Ours is a multi-party democratic set up under which any party is free to preach its political ideology and try for a change in the Constitution to make it consistent with its political convictions".

He said that while there were parties advocating the Islamic ideologies, there were others pleading for communism and some of secularism.

It was the people who would decide which one to accept and reject.

The Prime Minister said that the process of law making was not static but progressive and dynamic. The constitutional provisions were changed to suit the progressive needs of the society and uphold the will of the people.

The Prime Minister described the point of order of Mr Sengupta as 'wholly and totally frivolous designed to take personal vengeance on me.' It has no bearing whatsoever on the Constitution', he said.

The Leader of the Opposition Mr Asaduzzaman Khan said that the observation of the Prime Minister on the Constitution was correct. What Mr Sengupta wanted to know was whether the Prime Minister was harbouring the concept of Islamic Republic" he said.

The Prime Minister then clearly spelt out his personal opinion and also party principle.

CSO: 4220/7311



NEED FOR MOBILIZATION OF DOMESTIC RESOURCES STRESSED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Finance Minister Mr Saifur Rahman on Wednesday asked the nation to prepare for sacrifices and mount aggressive efforts to mobilise and generate domestic resources, reports ENA.

Mobilisation of domestic resources was an essential precondition for economic development of the country, the Finance Minister asserted.

Mr Saifur Rahman was speaking to the agency in an exclusive interview at his chamber on Wednesday evening. Talking about the economic situation in the country, the Finance Minister warned the people against possible hardships in the event of their failure to generate adequate domestic resources.

The Finance Minister admitted that the country would face shortage of local funds to meet the growing requirements of economic development "if we were not alert enough to face the challenge."

He listed two causes namely decline in the commodity aid assistance and reduction in the food assistance by the donor countries for the internal shortage of fund.

Mr Saifur Rahman said that the country had built a food reserve totalling about 1.4 million tons which would reach the neighbourhood of about 1.5 million tons shortly. This is a unique situation and a great achievement for the country, he added.

This increase in production of foodgrains has resulted in the declining food assistance to Bangladesh coupled with donor country's inability to provide her with commodity assistance owing to recession and inflation in the world.

He said that the Government has taken measures to boost national savings and generate domestic resources to meet the shortfall. He particularly referred to the introduction of the Wage Earners Development Bond and the Investment Corporation mutual unit as bold steps to increase national savings.

The Finance Minister also said that the Government has taken steps to augment and streamline tax administration for yielding increased revenue towards generation of domestic resources vitally essential for economic development.

CSO: 4220/7405

BANGLADESH

CP PRESIDUM MAKES STATEMENT ON ELECTIONS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) on Wednesday put forward five conditions for "making the forthcoming Presidential polls meaningful, reports ENA.

The conditions as spelt out in a joint statement issued by the Members of the Party Presidium included refixation of the election date in consultation with the opposition parties, release of political prisoners including the General Secretary of the Party Comrade Farhad, withdrawal of State of Emergency and equal opportunity of publicity for all candidates in government controlled media.

The statement observed an election alliance of the "democratic progressive and patriotic forces" and putting up a common candidate of these parties are very important issues and said their unity was not indispensable for the greater interest of the nation.

CSO: 4220/7405

PAPER REPORTS CONTENTS OF PEKING TRADE TALKS

Dacca The BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Peking, July 15: Official trade talks between Bangladesh and China which began here today reviewed the implementation of the existing barter protocols and both sides expressed general satisfaction over their progress reports BSS.

The talks were led by the Bangladesh, State Minister for Commerce Choudhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiky and the Chinese Minister for Foreign Trade Mr Li Qiang.

They also discussed the volume and nature of trade and the various items to be included in the new protocol.

The second round of talks at the working group level was held in the afternoon between the two parties to help finalise details of the proposed protocol.

In the second round of talks Bangladesh Ambassador to Peking Mr M M Rezaul Karim and the Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Trade Mr Ria Shi led their respective sides.

During the talks Bangladesh State Minister made a special reference to the support of China to all the meetings and conferences held so far for creation of a new international economic order. The commitment of the Group of 77 for establishment of an integrated programme and a common fund. He also discussed current issues of global significance such as global round of negotiations (GRN) North South dialogue and for the promotion of the interest of the LDC's.

The State Minister emphasised that cooperation between Bangladesh and China on all the international forums and also in their bilateral relations and economic cooperation are all pervading.

Mr Siddiky also stressed the need for development of trade as an essential measure for the implementation of the long term trade agreement concluded between the two countries last year.

While recalling the invaluable contribution made by the late President Ziaur Rahman to the promotion of excellent relations that have developed between Bangladesh and China the Bangladesh Minister described President Zia as the chief architect of this policy.

The Chinese Minister for Foreign Trade paid rich tributes to the memory of the late President Ziaur Rahman and reciprocated the views expressed by the Bangladesh State Minister for Commerce.

The Chinese Minister also remembered fondly his personal association with the late Bangladesh President on a number of occasions.

Mr Li Qiang hosted a banquet in the evening in honour of Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiky.

Earlier on his arrival in Peking yesterday Mr Siddiky was received at the airport by the Chinese Minister Vice Minister and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

CSO: 4220/7405

FAO LAUDS BANGLADESH FOODGRAIN STORAGE SCHEME

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) made an evaluation of the crash programme made for construction of two lakh tons of foodgrain storage. The report praised the noteworthy achievement of the Government in implementing the project according to a PID handout.

The FAO storage consultant had visited 18 of the 20 districts of the country to evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the crash programme and reported that about 90 per cent of the total 400 units will be constructed in less than one year from the time of launching the programme in October last year. This is a remarkable and praiseworthy achievement of the Government in the field of project implementation.

It has been entirely Bangladeshi effort in financing implementation and other technical aspects of the project without outside consultancy or foreign aid.

The project also helped in developing a central monitoring system through the skeleton staff of the planning and Implementation Cell of the Ministry of Food.

The main cause of this success according to FAO was the keen interest of the late President Ziaur Rahman and the enthusiasm of the district and subdivision level food administration and other concerned.

CSO: 4220/7408



## EDITORIAL URGES MORE GRAIN STORAGE WAREHOUSES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Jul 81 p 5

[Text]

The construction of twenty-five food godowns in the Comilla district is a welcome step towards making the procurement drive a success in the area in the real sense. Procurement of food-grain is primarily aimed at meeting the needs of the lean period as well as at curbing the activities of the profit-mongers. At the same time, our procurement policy emphasises the importance of voluntary sale by farmers who must also get fair prices for their products. The available statistics show that the quantum of food-grain hitherto procured exceeds the estimated target. But this is not all. Efforts have to be geared up to have better results out of the procurement drive.

This is why, as appreciated, facilities must be ensured so that the farmers can avail themselves of the services of the procurement centres. In view of the growing needs these have to be set up at such places where each of these can serve at least three to four villages at a time. It is also imperative that interior roads together with the bridges and culverts be repaired and developed to facilitate mobility of men and

materials. It is the roads lying in bad condition in far-flung areas that, in most cases, create great inconvenience for the farmers, thus compelling them to sell their products to the middlemen. Such obstacles must be removed

But these alone cannot achieve the objective of the drive. Procured foodgrain must also be properly preserved. The recently constructed twentyfive godowns, each having storage capacity of more than five hundred tons, will enhance food storage facility in the Comilla district by 12,500 tons. But the country's requirement is greater than this. We can hardly afford loss of foodgrain of any quantum in any place of the country. There is therefore the need to take effective measures to expedite setting up of public godowns in greater number near the procurement centres. It will protect foodgrain as well as facilitate its movement from one place to another. This is also to be stressed that work at each end from procurement and storage to movement and distribution has to be performed with the same degree of efficiency and speed.

STEEL AND ENGINEERING CORPORATION REPORTS PROGRESS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] The Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) is forging ahead with increased profit and volume of sales. In the financial year ending June 30, 1981, the Corporation had earned a profit of about Tk. 17.65 crore.

During the same period, the BSEC has produced goods worth about Tk. 311.20 crore. Its performance exceeded the profit and production of 1979--to the exchequer was Tk. 48.67 pectively. [as published]

In 1979-80, the BSEC produced goods worth Tk. 229.73 crore and made a profit of Tk. 14.45 crore.

The Corporation has also contributed increased taxes and duties and share of profit to the Government. In 1980-81, it contributed Tk. 70.64 crore as taxes and duties and Tk. 3.50 crore as the Government's share of profit.

In 1979-80, the contribution to the exchequer was Tk. 48.67 and 3 crore respectively. Thus its contribution to the Government's [word illegible] exceeded by 45 [next line illegible].

During the period under review, the volume of sales of the Corporation also exceeded by 34 per cent over the same period of the previous year. In 1980-81, the sales figure was about Tk. 340.87 crore. In 1979-80 it was Tk. 254.71 crore.

Production performance by all the other steel enterprises have increased. Chittagong Steel Mills Ltd. made a record in the production of steel ingot.

The mill produced 135.734 metric tons of ingot during the financial year. It has also created a record in producing 50/65 M.M. billet in the same period.

CSO: 4220/7408

DACCA SET ON BETTERING CONDITIONS IN CHITTAGONG HILLS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Ramgarh July 16:--Mr. Aung Shwe Prue Chowdhury Minister of State for Food said here on Monday that the present Government was determined to improve the lot of the people of Chittagong Hill Tracts according to a PID handout.

He was addressing a public meeting at Ramgarh. The Minister of State said that the Government was aware of the problems of the people of this area and all out efforts were being made to solve them.

He called upon the people to be united and stressed the need for their co-operation with the Government to implement the massive uplift plan initiated during the tenure of the late President Ziaur Rahman.

In this context the State Minister pointed out that a good number of food godowns would be constructed in Chittagong Hill Tracts. Of these eight godowns have already been completed and another 10 godowns are nearing completion he added.

Earlier the Minister of State visited a newly constructed food godown here and said that this would help maintain a good food stock in the area.

CSO: 4220/7408

REPORT ON 'CARNAGE' IN CHITTAGONG HILLS DENIED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] The Bangladesh Government on Thursday dismissed as "grossly misleading baseless and mischievous" Indian Press reports that hundreds of tribal people had been killed during a three-day carnage in the Chittagong Hill Tracts from June 25 last.

A spokesman of the Home Ministry also denied that a large number of tribal people had left their hearths and homes and crossed over to India.

The spokesman told BSS that no incident had taken place in Chittagong Hill Tracts which might lead to a large-scale exodus of tribal people to India.

He said the local law enforcing authorities took certain steps against miscreants who had earlier attacked peaceful settlements in Bandarchara, under Matiranga Police Station killing 15 non-tribals and injuring many others. As a result of these measures, he said the miscreants might have crossed the border in an attempt to escape punishment.

When attention of the government drawn to the Indian Press reports the spokesman said as a matter of fact, the local law enforcing authorities had taken certain steps against miscreants who had earlier attacked peaceful settlements in Bandarchara, under P.S. Matiranga, killing 15 non-tribals and injuring many others. As a result of these measures, the miscreants might have crossed the border in an attempt to escape punishment and a few tribal families might have also followed suit in panic.

Government wishes to make it clear that innocent people have not been harassed and no tribesmen have been killed. The Local Administration have since taken adequate measures for the return and rehabilitation of those who had left and sought the cooperation of the Indian Border Authorities in this matter."

CSO: 4220/7408

ACTING PRESIDENT SENDS GREETINGS TO IRAQ

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Jul 81 p 1

[Text]

Acting President Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar has sent a message of felicitations to President Saddam Hussain of Iraq on its National Day, says a PID handout.

In his message, the Acting President said the people of Iraq and Bangladesh are bound together by fraternal ties based on shared history, culture and religion and their relations are characterised by deep friendship and cooperation.

Justice Abdus Sattar hoped that the fraternal relation so happily existing between Bangladesh and Iraq would further expand and consolidate in the years ahead. The Acting President also conveyed best wishes for the long life, health and happiness of President Saddam Hussain as well as for the peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Iraq.

Following is the text of the message:

"On the auspicious occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Iraq I have great pleasure in extending on behalf of the Government and the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, our sincere greetings and felicitations to Your Excellency and the brotherly people of Iraq.

"The peoples of Iraq and Bangladesh are bound together by fraternal ties based on shared history, culture and religion and their relations are characterised by deep friendship and cooperation. I am confident that the fraternal relations so happily existing between our two peoples will further expand and consolidate in the years ahead.

"I avail myself of this opportunity to convey my best wishes for Your Excellency's long life health and happiness and for the peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Iraq.

"Please accept, Excellency the assurances of my highest considerations".

CSO: 4220/7400



# ANNUAL BUDGETS SHOW LOSSES IN SECTOR CORPORATIONS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 14 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The annual budget estimate of various sector corporations shows that while the productive sector and financial institutions are making steady progress, commercial, trading and transportation sectors are incurring heavy losses.

The ten productive sector corporations had earned a profit of about Tk 92 crore during 1980-81, while eight commercial and trading sector corporations incurred a loss of Tk. 7.21 crore and five transportation sector corporations entailed a loss of about Tk. 12.55 crore. On the other hand, 12 banks and financial institutions (Insurance Corporations excluded) had earned a profit of Tk 77.94 crore during this period.

All the 10 productive sector corporations, however did not do well during the period under review. Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation and Bangladesh Mineral Exploration and Development Corporations proved to be losing concerns.

During 1980-81, the BTMC incurred a loss of Tk. 8.50 crore while the amount of loss by BMEDC was Tk 2.15 crore. While the budget estimate of BTMC for 1981-82 had proposed to reduce the loss to Tk. 4.90 crore, the loss of the other Corporation would increase to Tk. 4.99 crore.

## BJMC

Among the productive sector corporations the highest amount of profit Tk 40.14 crore was earned by the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) during 1980-81. During 1981-82 the profit of the Corporation has been estimated to come down to Tk. 33.06 crore.

The BJMC was followed by the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation and Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation. During the period under review, these two Corporations earned Tk 29.66 crore and Tk 14.77 crore respectively as profits.

## BSFIC

During 1981-82, the BSFIC is expected to raise its profits to Tk 34.10 crore while the BSEC expects to earn a profit of Tk. 23.95 crore. The Petrobangla which earned a profit of Tk. 12.81 crore last year is expected to earn Tk 16.58 crore this year.

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation has come forward with a deficit budget this year. During 1980-81, the Corporation earned a profit of Taka three lakhs while this year the budget estimate shows that it would incur a loss of Taka 21 lakhs.

Bangladesh Forest Industries Corporation had earned a profit of Tk 3.03 crore last year. This year, it expects to increase the profit to Taka 4.43 crore.

#### FFS Trust

Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust is yet another corporation which had forecast loss this year.

Last year, the Trust had earned Taka 60 lakhs as profit but this year the loss has been estimated at Taka 48 lakhs.

#### Losing Concerns

Among the eight commercial and trading sector corporations, the Bangladesh Jute Marketing Corporation incurred the highest loss Taka 11.50 crore and it was followed by its another sister corporation Bangladesh Jute Trading Corporation which suffered a loss of Taka 5.20 crore during 1980-81.

The budget estimate of both these Corporations for 1981-82 shows that both of them had proposed to slash down its loss this year. The Jute Marketing Corporation would suffer an estimated loss of Taka 3.37 crore while the BJTC's deficit had been estimated at Taka 3.14 crore.

#### BJEC

Bangladesh Jute Export Corporation had earned a nominal profit of Taka nine lakhs last year. This year the profit has been estimated at Taka six lakhs showing shortfall of Taka three lakhs in its estimated profit.

#### Parjatan

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation is yet another losing concern for the Government in this sector. The BPC entailed a loss of Taka 1.57 crore during 1980-81. This year, the estimated deficit has been shown at Taka 1.15 crore.

#### BPC

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation has, however, come forward with the largest deficit budget in this sector. Last year the Corporation had earned a profit of Taka 8.02 crore while this year it had proposed a loss of Taka 39.95 crore.

#### BFLC

Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation suffered a loss of Tk. 48.98 lakhs last year. This year, the Corporation has proposed to overcome the loss and expects to earn a nominal profits of Tk. 5.51 lakh.

#### COSCO

Bangladesh Consumers Supplies Company limited had earned a profit of Tk. 24 lakhs last year while this year the profit has been estimated at Tk. eight crore.

#### TCB

In this sector, the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh is the only worthwhile profitable organisation. The TCB had earned a profit of Tk. 2.60 crore last year. This year it has estimated a profit of Tk. 3.92 crore.

#### Biman

Among the five transportation sector corporations Bangladesh Biman had incurred the highest amount of loss last year amounting to Tk. 14.36 crore. The budget estimate for 1981-82 shows that it would incur a loss of Tk 27.02 crore this year, almost doubling the amount of loss.

#### BRTC

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (bus division) is yet another big losing concern in this sector. Last year, it had incurred a loss of Tk seven crore and this year the amount of loss has been estimated to go up to Tk. 12 crore. The Truck Division of the BRTC which had earned a profit of Tk 64 lakhs last year is also expected to earn lesser profit this year Tk. 25 lakhs only.

#### BIWTC

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation is yet another losing concern. During 1980-81, the Corporation had entailed a loss of Taka 4.10 crore and this year the loss has been estimated at Taka 3.77 crore.

#### BSC

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation is the largest profit earner in this sector. The Corporation had in its credit a profit of Taka 12.27 crore last year while this year it expects to increase the profit to Taka 15.39 crore.

#### Banks

During 1980-81, the banks and financial institutions in public sector had earned a profit of Taka 177.94 crore. They have estimated to earn Taka 195.45 crore as profit this year. None of the 12 banks and financial institutions is a losing concern.

CSO: 4220/7401a

## BANGLADESH

### SOVIET, POLISH TRADE REPRESENTATIVES TALK TO PRESS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bangladesh's trade relations with the Soviet Union and other East European nations were "favourable and mutually beneficial."

This was stated by representatives of the Soviet Union and different East European countries at a Press conference at the Cultural Centre of the USSR Embassy in Dacca on Wednesday.

Mr S. Lotosky, Deputy Trade Representative of the Soviet Union in Bangladesh told newsmen that his country's trade with Bangladesh under barter agreements had been favourable to Bangladesh.

The turn-over of trade between Bangladesh and Soviet Union was to the tune of 47 million roubles (72 million US dollars). The goods included jute jute cloth and bags, wet goat skins and tea from Bangladesh side and oil products, raw cotton, steel billets etc. from the Soviet Union.

Mr Lotosky said that under the trade protocol for 1981 the volume of trade would be increased by 30 per cent.

Asked if the prices of oil products like diesel and kerosene purchased by Bangladesh from the Soviet Union last year were higher than the world market prices Mr Lotosky said that prices were based on international market.

The representative of Poland Dr Jerzy A. Zak, Commercial Counsellor of Polish Embassy said that during the last four years turnover of exchanges of goods between his country and Bangladesh increased by almost tenfold. The goods exchanged included tea, raw jute from Bangladesh and copper, C.I. sheets, MS billets from Poland. He said that Poland was the largest buyer of Bangladesh tea which was becoming very popular among the Poles. Last year Poland purchased packet tea worth one million US dollar.

CSO: 4220/7405

PROBLEMS OF REDUCING IMPORT-EXPORT GAP EXAMINED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15, 16 Jul 81

[Article by Prof. Shamsul Huda]

[15 Jul 81 p 5]

[Text] The new Import Policy for 1981-82 envisages a total allocation of Taka 2950 crore as against the provision of Taka 2600 crore for 1980-81. The increased allocation, according to the State Minister in charge of the Ministry of Commerce Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky has been made with the aim of ensuring the wider availability of imported goods in the market for maintaining price. We cannot, however exclude the factors like rising import prices and the provision to issue licences to the newcomer in import trade while highlighting the increased allocation of Taka 350 crore.

The new Export Policy for 1981-82 has set the target of export earnings at Taka 1500 crore for the year as against the anticipated level of foreign exchange earnings through export at Taka 1200 crore in 1980-81. It may be mentioned that the Export Promotion Bureau earlier recommended an export target of Taka 1325 crore for 1981-82 in view of the protectionist policy of the developed countries and less optimistic trend in the demand for export and export prices and the supply situation of exportable commodities Government has set the export target at Taka 1500 crore and announced a number of practical promotional measures to reach the target.

The Import-export gap for 1981-82 stands at Taka 1450 crore. From 1973-74 to 1980-81 the adverse balance of trade amounts to Taka 9480 90 crore. Considering the refixation of exchange rate of Taka the value of our exports during 1980-81 in real terms is comparable to that of 1976-77.

Exports constitute the life-blood of our economy. Government is providing incentives to increase exports. Nevertheless exports are rising fast and imports are rising faster. This imbalance must be reduced progressively. We cannot afford to remain complacent about valuwesise rise in export earnings. We must go all out for increase in our exports in terms of value, quantum and quality.

It is strongly felt that the surest means of bridging this gap is to ensure optimum utilisation of the production capacity of the export oriented industries,



lion's share of which is in the public sector. For ensuring optimum production the individual units of the nationalised sectors should be given annual production and export targets and all possible steps should be taken for implementation. Private non-manufacturing exporters and export oriented industries sector which have lot of expertise and initiative should be given the facilities in the shape of increased incentives like establishment of Export Bank special rate of interest, concessional customs and freights simplification of export formalities, guarantee of adequate shipping space effective enforcement of Export Credit and Guarantee Scheme, gradual broadening of the Coverage of XPL, enhanced XPL benefits diversification of exportable items and supply of regular power at cheap rates. These measures would help make our exports competitive and add to the export earnings. In this connection it may be pointed out that while formulating export policy the domestic production and requirements of exportable items should be thoroughly looked into. A comprehensive action programme should be taken to produce non-traditional items in the fields and factories on commercial scale on the basis of their export potentiality and survey of markets.

The practical constraints to better export performance are inadequate export supplies in respect of all the major products except raw Jute and tea and insufficient shipping facilities which disrupt the delivery schedules of export products. This results in shortfalls in the volume of exports of all the major products except raw Jute and tea. The shortfall in raw Jute is due to slackness in foreign demand and shipping delays.

#### Incentives

In order to promote exports previously it was the system that Government would provide incentive to the extent of 40 per cent cash but subsequently it was changed to XPL. This XPL limit has been raised varying from 40 per cent to 60 per cent against different exportable items. By this exporters are benefited by 10 per cent to 15 per cent only by sale of imported goods or Licence as the case may be. By this they can reduce the export offer by 10 per cent to 15 per cent only. This is not at all competitive with the similar items of other foreign countries like China, the Philippines, India etc.

Some of the countries like India offer cash subsidy on some exportable items to give incentive in increasing exports of some articles and succeeded in their scheme beyond expectation. In our country also cash subsidy may be given on handicrafts and non-traditional articles. This will surely produce very good result and the exporters also will devote whole-heartedly to export as much as possible and the earning of foreign currency also will increase. It is, therefore, suggested that 25 per cent cash subsidy may be given in case of handicrafts and non-traditional items and in case of other items the rate of XPL be increased to 60 per cent for achievement of better results.

Export Guarantee Scheme: There is an Export Credit and Guarantee Scheme introduced by the Sadharan Bima Corporation, but banks are allegedly hesitant to advance money against the policy issued by the Sadharan Bima Corporation. As a result exports suffer greatly and the exporters feel discouraged.

The nationalised commercial banks are financing in a very limited manner the small exporters of non-traditional items against pledge or hypothecation of

of stocks; their advances are made after deducting 30 per cent to 40 per cent margin on the basis of procurement/production cost.

Banks advances are also being covered under ECG Scheme at the cost of the parties i.e. debiting the parties account. Banks are covering under ECG Scheme to the extent of their advances and interests on such advances and interests only ignoring the parties 30 per cent to 40 per cent margin part.

So in case of non-execution of export or damage of the stock, the banks' risk part is covered by insurance money whereas the small shippers are losing 30 per cent to 40 per cent (the margin amount deducted by the banks) which is not covered under the same ECG Scheme. Thereby the small exporters are losing a substantial part of their capital and are automatically discouraged to continue the export business.

Government should issue directive to the Sadharan Bima Corporation (SBC) and the Banks that they should also cover the entire risk against ECG Scheme for the benefit of the shippers and the greater interest of export. This will also help the banks and the SBC to minimise their calculations and procedural formalities.

Export Bank: An Export Bank badly needs to be set up to deal with the specialised type of financing of the exporters. Pending this, adequate export financing for the exportable commodities should be made available to the exporters from commercial banks and an office of Bangladesh Bank should also be established to look after the system and to take prompt action as and when needed.

Some of the Commercial banks should be authorised to deal with foreign exchange directly without going through any other branches.

Banking Facilities: Adequate and proper banking facilities should be provided to our exporters on easy and normal terms and conditions for expediting the release of export documents. In the context of world economic recession present rate of interest charged by banks from export units should be brought down to a reasonable level to boost up exports. Uniform practices should be adopted by all the banks in respect of financing export trade. Enhancement of loans by BSB, BSRS and ICB for the import of capital machinery and high interest on cash credit facilities by commercial banks are handicapping the export oriented industries. There should be special rate of interest for export oriented industries.

Adequate Shipping Space Required: Exporters are facing difficulties in getting shipping space to foreign ports. Proper arrangement should be made with shipping companies specially with Bangladesh Shipping Corporation for adequate shipping space for exportable goods to gulf countries and USA Ports.

It may be mentioned that due to difficulties of shipping space and high freight rates our exports to Middle East have come down to 12.70 per cent in '79-80 from 15.4 per cent in 1975-76. On the other hand, India's exports to Middle East rose by 3 to 4 times. So, concessional promotional freight rates should be introduced to boost export of non-traditional items in the gulf area.

Container and Storage Facilities: Adequate container facilities should be arranged in Chittagong and Chalna ports for the promotion of exports.

There is good prospect for export of perishable commodities in the foreign market. But due to non-availability of storage facilities at the port area and lack of refrigerated vessels, export of these item is being seriously hampered.

To boost export of perishables Government should take necessary steps in providing cold storage facilities and freeze vessels. It is also imperative to set up more godowns so that the exporters are enabled to store goods for exports.

The rate of godown rent in port area for export commodities is high. Concessional rate should be introduced.

Setting Up of Quarantine Offices: It is long felt demand of the exporters for setting up of quarantine offices in different districts with a view to facilitating the exporter to collect quarantine certificate locally. At present exporters have to move a lot to collect certificates which is time consuming and involves additional expenses.

To redress the grievances of the exporters and to boost up export it is better to set up quarantine offices at district level.

Scale Measurement: It is reported that while carrying exportable goods by road a scale is set near Chittagong where more than five tons of goods are restricted to be carried by any kind of transport. This system should be abolished to carry exportable goods by road to the port.

Ferry Services: Ferry Services in the country are still in a backward position and a time consuming factor for exporters to transport exportable goods to the port. Necessary steps should be taken in this connection to improve ferry services for quick transportation of exportable goods. Until such time the number of ferry services is increased, the vehicles carrying export cargoes should be given priority for immediate transportation.

Reorientation of Trade Offices Abroad: Incentives to the exporters should be supplemented vigorously by our trade offices abroad. Before being posted abroad the concerned officers should have intensive training and orientation that they will have to act as our salesmen. They must also be given annual export quota and its fulfilment is to be ensured. Personnel recruitment for the trade office/commercial section of the embassies should also be made from the private sector to make our export drive more meaningful. We like to see our trade offices and commercial section of the embassies converted into sales cum trade information offices in the real sense of the term.

High Powered Committee: To look after the difficulties/problems of export and to take immediate remedial measures for promoting export trade of the country, a high powered committee be constituted with the representatives from the concerned organisations/Government departments. These may include the Ministry of Commerce, Export Promotion Bureau, Bangladesh Bank Shipping Corporation, Chief Controller of Imports & Exports, Customs Authority, Board of Revenue, Bangladesh Biman Bangladesh Railways, Insurance Companies, representatives from the Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

[Text] To facilitate diversification of export market, the Export Promotion Bureau should undertake frequent itemwise market survey like readymade garments, processed/preserved fruits and vegetables, paper and converted paper products, hosiery products, specialised textiles, handicrafts leather and leather products, Jute wall coverings/ furnishings, molasses, rugs and carpet etc. and country-wise survey particularly of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, Iraq Qatar and other Middle and South East Asian countries and circulate the results of survey to the exporters through the Chambers of Commerce. Survey should be kept up to date from time to time.

**Increased Allocation for Business Trips:** The present provision of 1 per cent of the export earnings with maximum allocation of \$3000 for business trip irrespective of the quantum and value of exports, made by an exporter is inadequate in view of worldwide inflation. To develop wider business contacts and explore markets, the percentage of allocation for business trip should be increased generally from 1% to 2% of export earnings up to certain target and the existing maximum quota should also be increased. But after achievement of certain target, the percentage of allocation of business trip for export marketing should be increased proportionately to the value of export earnings without maximum ceiling. This amount earmarked for business trip should be allocated to the exporters as blocked accounts in the authorised Bank to avoid the formality of seeking permission from the Bangladesh Bank for foreign exchange for every visit.

**Concept of General Trading Company:** In South Korea the concept of export trading house known as GTC (General Trading Company) has been developed. This helps to increase export earnings to a very substantial amount. After meeting a certain target of export, the Government recognises particular trading house as GTC. After their enlistment as GTC they get preferential treatment for export promotional travelling communication facilities, export financing and many other facilities. Recognition by Government as GTC is considered as a great honour.

The idea was to certain extent borrowed from the Japanese Export houses known 'Shogo Shosha'. In Taiwan and India they are developing the idea of special export houses. Our Government should also adopt some steps on the line.

**Export Problems of Garments Industry:** Garments industry is one of the highly export-oriented industries. Both Director, Textiles and CCI&E have accorded their recommendation for issue of block licence as per allocation to different units. Bangladesh Bank however is not in a position to authenticate all the licences in view of foreign exchange allocation constraint. The objective to issue block licence is therefore being frustrated.

Exporters should be able to obtain authentication against recommended licences from Bangladesh Bank on priority basis.

Necessary allocation may be made available to Bangladesh Bank to facilitate issue of licences properly.

Now block licences have been issued on the recommendation of the Director, Textiles. But even after recommendation import licence could not reportedly be



issued in many cases because of shortage of funds. Sufficient fund should be earmarked for the export oriented garment industry, so that required licences may be issued on priority basis after due recommendation from the Director of Textiles.

**Shipment of Garments:** Export of garments is reportedly facing problem due to shortage of cargo space in Bangladesh Biman. Government has so far sanctioned about 40 ready made garments industries which need approximately 3,500 tons of cargo space per annum. The space available with Bangladesh Biman is far short of this requirement.

In view of the possibilities of big volume of cargo movements in coming years, Biman may be asked to place at least one weekly cargo flight to Europe and similarly Bangladesh Shipping Corporation may be asked to carry at least a few containers suitable for carrying garments on their sailings to Europe and U.S.A. The merchant fleet of the BSC needs to be strengthened on priority basis.

**Training:** The total estimated work force requirement of the readymade garments industry so far sanctioned, is around 20,000 of which 80 per cent would be female workers. Inadequate supply of trained workers has already created problem even at this stage when only 3 per cent of the sanctioned units have come into operation.

In line with other technical and vocational training schemes Government should extend proper facilities for training male and female youths in modern garments manufacturing techniques. Specialists in design cutting stitching and maintenance may be invited from abroad under UNDP/UNICEF or other international technical aid programmes.

**Export of Reptile Skins:** In order to increase export earnings liberal policy should be adopted by withdrawing the restriction on the private exporters to export reptile skins. Let there be option on the part of the shippers to avail the facility of TCB services or arrange export themselves directly. This will also help develop competition and will expedite export execution.

**Export of Jute and Leather:** To compete with the other exporting countries and to increase our export, adequate incentives should be given to the exporters. This will help achieve our export targets and increase foreign exchange earnings. For this duties on the export of raw jute and jute goods should be substantially reduced and freights subsidised, so that the exporters can compete with the neighbouring countries in the overseas markets. When foreign exchange earnings will increase, Government can make up the loss in duties through reasonable taxation of the increased income of the exporters.

Simultaneously, technological research on versatile uses of jute, particularly low grades which have created a problem of disposal should be strengthened. This will help the promotion of jute-based industries and the country's capacity to earn valuable foreign exchange will be considerably increased. In this connection it may be mentioned that out of the 1980-81 raw jute export target earnings of Tk. 287 crore export earnings stand at only Tk. 127.16 crore during July 80 to Feb. 81 as against the target of Tk. 211.37 crore for the same period. Jute goods (all sorts) having annual target of Tk. 678 crore earned Tk. 389.93 crore



during July 80 to Feb 81 as against target of Tk. 417.81 crore for the same period. Similarly tanned/semi-tanned leather having 1980-81 target of Tk. 140 crore and proportionate target of Tk. 83.39 crore for July 80 to Feb. 81 accounted for export earning of Tk. 62.03 crore only during the same period.

**Export of Other Non-traditional Items:** Turtle is an exportable item. It has great demand outside of Bangladesh. With greater activities of cargo section of Biman, it could be exported in large quantity. Arrangements should be made that Biman ensures sufficient space by arrangements with exporters. These items should be covered by insurance and this item should be under XPL list. Monkeys are abundantly available in our country particularly in Madhupur Garh, Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Sunderbans. These animals come from Nepal, North East India and pass on to Burmah via Bangladesh. We can export some limited quantities every year through local entrepreneurs.

Projects of monkey breeding should be set up as 100 per cent export oriented industry. Export of monkey should be introduced again in a limited manner. For breeding project, trapping permission and required land is to be provided by the government.

The private entrepreneurs should be allowed to set up breeding firms for lizards and crocodiles for export purpose. Crocodile skin is a costly item and it has great demand in the international market. We can utilize the mechanical know-how of our neighbouring countries like Thailand, Malaysia for developing these firms, as they are quite successful in establishing such breeding firms and earning a huge amount in foreign exchange by exporting crocodile skin.

**Aggressive Strategy:** The present situation needs the adoption of an aggressive export promotion strategy and its implementation by all possible steps. The strategy has to concentrate particularly on (a) an investment programme for ensuring fuller utilisation of existing production and creating new production facilities in both the agricultural and industrial sectors and (b) a determined bid to attract foreign investment in export oriented ventures through well-planned investment and publicity promotion programmes. The publicity programmes abroad which appear to be poor according to the impressions as given by the foreign trade and industrial delegations should highlight the existing and potential export infrastructure facilities and prospects and the assurance of security for foreign investment. For this political stability and peace in the labour front are necessary pre-conditions.

The suggestions as discussed in this article if implemented would provide the momentum that the export sector needs to effect a major breakthrough in export growth and development.

**Import Substitution:** Along with export promotion drive import substitution in all possible fields of economically viable projects has to be vigorously pursued. Import of all luxury goods should be banned. Our economy has become too much import-oriented as a result of which our local industries are languishing. The present slogan should be: good or bad our country our products. This will help minimise the volume of imported goods. Political leadership has to give strong lead in this direction. Industrialists must resist the temptation of reaping the benefit of having a sheltered market by keeping the prices at reasonable level and maintaining the standard of quality goods. The National Standards

Institution (NSI) has a great role to play in this connection. The Institution appears to have failed to play its role properly so far. The NSI should be strengthened to enforce quality control regulations in the greater interest of the country.

**Industrialists Duty to Society:** Our industrialists are expected to serve the cause of society by passing the benefits of industrialisation on to the consumers in the shape of lower price. For example we have observed with surprise that locally produced electric fans were selling at a very high price recently. But when foreign fans were becoming available at cheaper price, local producers of fans willy-nilly reduced their prices and were demanding protection. Our question is if they could slash the prices of fans down later on why couldn't they do it earlier? However, as consumers we very much want that our industries thrive in a meaningful way without causing hardship to consumers. Reasonable profit and not profiteering should be the guiding principle of the industrialists.

**Optimum Use of Gas as Fuel:** Last but not the least, it can not but be pointed out that import of oil used as fuel involves several hundred crores of taka in foreign exchange every year. Our import bill could be minimised substantially if optimum use of our natural gas could be made for the purpose as fuel. Government should give more adequate attention to this aspect.

CSO: 4220/7403

WORLD BANK ASSURES DACCA OF CONTINUED SUPPORT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] The visiting World Bank Vice President Mr William David Hopper had his first round of discussions with Mr. M. Saifur Rahman Minister for Finance at the latter's office at the Secretariat on Wednesday morning reports ENA.

During the meeting, they discussed wide ranging issues including prices and credits connected with the macro economic management and financing of development programmes of Bangladesh an official handout said.

Mr. Saifur Rahman asserted that Bangladesh shall make every endeavour to successfully implement the policies of the Late President Ziaur Rahman particularly his development priorities will be strictly followed.

The Finance Minister emphasised the need for more commodity and programme assistance.

Mr Hopper expressed his satisfaction over programme and policy implementation of Bangladesh and expressed the hope that Bangladesh would make every effort to retain development momentum and spirit generated by the dynamic leadership of President Zia.

The World Bank Vice President assured the Finance Minister of the Bank's continued and enlarged support.

In this connection he said that the difficulties now being encountered by the developed countries emphasised the need for increased efforts towards self reliance by the developing countries.

During the discussions Mr M Syeduzzaman Alternate Executive Director of the World Bank and Mr A. M. A. Muhith Secretary External Resources Division were also present.

The World Bank Vice President later had a meeting with the Minister for Planning Dr Fasihuddin Mahatab and Members of the Planning Commission at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

At noon on Wednesday Hopper laid a floral wreath at the mazar of President Zia to pay homage to the great leader of Bangladesh.

Planning Minister Dr. Fasih Uddin Mahatab on Wednesday said the draft Second Five-Year Plan will be finalised by September this year.

Dr. Mahatab was talking to newsmen after a four-hour discussion with Vice-President of the World Bank Dr. David Hopper who flew in Dacca on Tuesday.

The Planning Minister said he had informed Dr. Hopper that despite readjustment in certain sectors of the Second Five-year Plan in the process of finalisation the policy priority targets and strategy of the important sectors such as food production and primary education will remain unchanged. He also said that the Government is determined to sustain the vigour and spirit in the implementation of the Second Five-year Plan.

Alternative Executive Director of World Bank Mr. Syeduzzaman and acting chief of the World Bank Mission in Bangladesh Mr. Allen Dennes and members of the Planning Commission were also present during the meeting.

Dr. Mahatab said they also had a review of the implementation of the Second Five-year Plan vis a vis the funding of projects in different sectors. The Planning Minister said Dr. Hopper has expressed happiness at the progress of the implementation of the Plan.

The Minister said they also discussed Bangladesh's export performances in 1980-81 during which the export receipts of the country declined compared to the previous year.

Dr. Mahatab said the World Bank Vice-President appreciated the problems facing Bangladesh in boosting exports because of "recession in the Western countries".

CSO: 4220/7403

WRITER AFFIRMS RELIABILITY OF 1981 CENSUS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5, 6 Jul 81

[Article by Dr. Ghyasuddin Ahmed]

[5 Jul 81 p 5]

[Text] The Preliminary census results have been announced the other day. Many questions are raised now as to the degree of its reliability and validity. This is normal because collection of statistical data, in any country, is a very difficult task. This is more so in the underdeveloped world. The main sources of error in the collection of any data is the non-sampling error. The non-sampling errors occur from respondents as well as from the interviewers. On the side of the respondents the errors usually occur from intentional mis-reporting of facts and from lack of cooperation and understanding of the questions asked. On the part of the interviewers the errors again occur from intentional or unintentional sources. The former happens due to reluctance of the interviewers to do the field work which is a difficult task. The latter happens due to improper training.

When any data are collected in our society many become skeptic about them--especially in their reliability and validity. One has reason to be doubtful since many data collectors use improper methods and fill in the questionnaires without going to the field. This sort of things happen when there is no proper supervision in the field. Supervision from each higher level is a must in order to collect quality data. When supervision is lacking you are not likely to get quality data.

Reliability of 1981 Population Census

Since the author was involved in the supervision of Population Census 1981 many asked him how authentic are the data. The answer to this question is, never in the history of this country that a better census was conducted before. One may feel that since the author himself was involved in the work he must say that his own and his colleagues works were good. The author would like to inform the valued readers that he appreciates only that which deserves appreciation. As a professional one must not hesitate to admit the facts and the author is doing that.

Let us come back to our discussion. The author has the following basis to support the views that this year the census was conducted most efficiently. Some



of the reasons for this was reflected in another article of the author published on March 6, 1981 on the eve of Population Census 1981. We will just touch few of those points here before discussing the experiences of Census 1981 enumeration.

The supervisory network was well designed during this year's census. The Statistics Division provided field personnel up to thana level and at times a large thana was divided into more than one zone. The form was simple to collect the required data. The local people were recruited to do the job. Unlike previous years the enumeration work was done by non-primary school teachers. According to the original plan the primary school teachers were supposed to do the actual enumeration in most cases and when there was any shortfall of teachers the unemployed youths should have done the job. However since the primary school teachers went on strike for indefinite period prior to the census it was decided to employ more educated unemployed youths and high school teachers to do the job.

However lots of opposition started coming from different quarters regarding the use of unemployed youths. Many remarked that they will not perform well. Many in fact remarked that it would be difficult to collect the census materials back from them. Ignoring all such oppositions the field personnel went on recruiting many unemployed youths for census enumeration. Most field personnel were also doubtful about the use of such youths but they did not have options to get rid of them since it was difficult to find the required number of educated enumerators who could do the job properly in many localities. With due caution many unemployed youths had been selected and trained to do the census work.

#### Performances of the Unemployed Youths

The day of enumeration came. The author was in Khulna and went out at midnight on 5th March 1981 to supervise the enumeration of floating population along with other officials there.

Like others, he was also doubtful that the enumerators may not come out at the dead of the night but he was surprised that everywhere that he went he found a group of enthusiastic young men along with their supervisors and trying to locate floating population in that city. At night he gave several rounds throughout the city--specially the important areas where members of floating population were likely to spend their nights like railway stations bus launch and steamer terminals and also various ghats of the river Rupsa. Everywhere that he went, throughout the night he found the enumeration work was going on smoothly. Other spots like hotels and rest houses including the circuit houses where floating population stayed were also covered during that night. The author was overwhelmed to find such enthusiasm among enumerators and supervisors.

Also, during the enumeration of non-floating population between March 6-8, 1981 special enthusiasm was observed in every place that the author visited. The author covered three districts of Khulna, Jessore and Kushtia during these days and all along enquired as to whether the enumeration work was progressing or had been completed on March 8 1981.

During the entire census period the author covered more than thirty thanas of these three districts and was highly pleased to see that the Census enumeration was done with maximum satisfaction of the supervisors.

By March 7, 1981 most of the enumeration work was completed. On that day the author was in Jessore and physically checked several blocks of the district town as to whether the enumeration work has either been completed or being completed. In most of the blocks the work was almost completed and almost all the residents asked reported that they have already been enumerated except in one place where the enumeration work was still going on. And in another place where the enumeration was completed only one resident of the area reported that his house was left out of count. At that point the local officer was instructed to locate the enumerator of that area and count that household.

On the 8th and 9th March 1981 the author was in Kushtia. By that time the enumerators started returning the filled in census questionnaires. There was large crowd around each Thana Statistician's Office. While checking some of the questionnaires in one thana it was found that the Malaria Household No. was missing in most of the questionnaires checked. It looked abnormal since the Malaria household nos. can be located in at least 70-80% of the rural households. Therefore the author decided to check that enumeration area and asked the supervisor to accompany him. The completed census questionnaires were also taken. But when they went to the area each and every resident of that area reported that he/she was counted. They checked some households questionnaires and found that the enumerator did not bother to find the Malaria household nos. which were written in some difficult places otherwise the count was done in all the households.

The marking of each household by chalk was worth mentioning. Everywhere one went could see the chalk mark which signified that the count has been completed.

[6 Jul 81 p 5]

[Text] The general public was very enthusiastic about the census count. On the evening of 8th March '81 the author was checking in Daulatpur area of Khulna as to whether census work was being carried out properly there. Many people stated that population of the other side of the road had been counted but they were left out. They were assured that the enumerator would visit them within next two days and if, somehow they were left out, the officer responsible to supervise that area was asked to check back again as to whether those people were counted or not. The census publicity materials seemed to be quite effective.

Ask Yourself: When any question of reliability and validity regarding this year's census comes in your mind please ask yourself and people around you whether you all were counted this year and compare it with the previous one. Many of you will find the answer to the question of reliability by doing this.

Enumeration Done While You Were Away: Many complained during and after the enumeration period that the enumerators visited their homes when either the head of the household or the entire family was away. In such a case the counting was done through other members of the household or through the neighbours. This latter case occurred mostly in urban areas. The census holiday (March 7, 1981) took many residents away from their working places to their homes. Many of these transient people were unwillingly dropped out of the count and many were counted through the neighbours' information.

These factors clearly suggest that as far as the head count is concerned, which is the most important factor in population census, this year's count may be termed as excellent. But as for the other information like age, education and occupation, are concerned one should be cautious because gathering information in these areas is difficult and needs very exhaustive training to the data collectors. However those information would show rough trends. Only household surveys can produce better results in these areas since the data are usually collected by highly trained and skilled interviewers.

## Conclusion

In conclusion it could easily be stated that this year's population count was very much reliable. The country should feel proud of having such a good census, which are usually unreliable in countries like Bangladesh. Many lessons have been learned from the experiences of this year's census and they are:

(a) The unemployed youths can be made very trustworthy, provided they are given responsibilities. Any neglect to them will make social problem more acute in the country. Plans must be taken to utilize their idle brain for constructive purposes. The experiences narrated here clearly show that when most local administrations, were skeptic about the utilization of unemployed youths' services, they had to change their opinion about such youths who have shown a great sense of responsibility in performing their role very well in the census of 1981. This tells us that they must be given some sort of responsibilities to make themselves useful for the society.

(b) When supervisory network is effective, the performances become very good. Everyone in hierarchical order must perform his/her supervisory role in order to make his/her subordinates more active giving proper guidelines in the hour of their needs.

(c) No holiday should be given for conducting census prefixing weekends since that sort of holidays are going to take many wage earners away from their usual places of residence and such people are likely to be undercounted. Though, in some cases the information have been collected from others the data gathered that way cannot be very reliable.

(d) The honoraria meant for the enumerators should be paid through cheques, as was done this year.

(e) Use of Mouza maps proved to be useful. The maps made for census should be preserved and copies made available to researchers, at a nominal cost, who may be interested to use them.

Mauza names may be used as the official village names, since maps are already available on that smallest geographic units. Where Mauzas are very large and spread over to more than one union/thana, measures should be taken to split them in smallest administrative units and new maps are made for such areas, redesignating them according to local names. Thoughts are on to make village maps but it will be very difficult do that since many a time two persons from one area may not agree on a common boundary. Furthermore, lots of money will be needed in making new maps, which to me look unnecessary since Mauza maps are already available for those areas.

(f) The Malaria Eradication Programme has made a very remarkable contribution in making Mauza maps and in identifying each household within the rural areas through these maps. These maps should be updated on routine basis and the nos. in the households should be the official identification numbers of the families residing there. Efforts should be made to make the nos. visible from outside very easily. These numbers will also be useful for other official purposes in relocating the households for such services as the health and family planning.

(g) It becomes a problem when you suddenly collect good statistics. This happens in the area of comparison--specially when looking at the changes over time. People become doubtful of the current data since they are only used with the previous data. One will find it difficult to explain the reasons for unexpected changes over time in this type of situation.

(h) The people should be told of the actual cost involved so that they are in a position to analyze the cost effectiveness of conducting the Census counting all the costs direct or indirect. The other day when the Director General Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (B.B.S.) informed at the Press Conference that the total honoraria paid to the enumerators and their supervisors was Taka 3 crore many got the idea about what was the total cost of the Census. Therefore, actual cost in conducting the census should be made known to the public.

The major head of direct and indirect costs incurred in the Census and which should be made known to the public category wise for cost effectiveness analyses are:

Direct Cost: (1) Census publicity; (2) Equipment; (3) Stationeries and supplies; (4) POL for vehicles and temporary staff recruited for vehicles; (5) Mapping operations; (6) Transportation of Census materials; (7) Contingency; (8) Honoraria to various groups of people involved and (9) Any other cost incurred directly.

Indirect Costs: (1) Salary of regular B.B.S. employees by number of man days engaged in actual Census operations; (2) The amount of T.A. and D.A. claimed by regular employees of B.B.S. from their respective wings; and (3) Any other costs incurred from the regular spendings of the B.B.S.

CSO: 4220/7315



ENCLAVE CENSUS-TAKING PROBLEM DISCUSSED WITH INDIA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The matter of Bangladesh officials passage to the country's enclaves of Dahagram and Angarpota for holding the census there has been taken up once again with the Government of India, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Dacca on Wednesday, reports BSS.

The spokesman expressed the hope that Bangladesh officials would soon be able to conduct the census in the two enclaves of the country without any hindrance.

The enumeration efforts of Bangladesh census officials were frustrated thrice since March 4 by the Indian nationals along the international border adjoining Rangpur.

The effort of the census team was first foiled during the nation-wide enumeration undertaken on March 4. It was foiled twice later on May 10 and again on July 6. This happened despite the arrangements done after discussions between the two governments.

Observers in Dacca feel that if the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement between Bangladesh and India had been implemented such unnecessary troubles could have been avoided between the two countries.

Under the agreement, Bangladesh is to get teen bigha--the corridor to the two enclaves as lease in perpetuity.

But the agreement could not be implemented owing to non-ratification of the agreement by India so far although, Bangladesh had ratified it in the very year of its signing.

CSO: 4220/7324



## INDIANS REPORTEDLY FOIL ENCLAVE CENSUS-TAKING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Rangpur, July 6:--The third attempt of the Bangladesh Census officials to undertake the enumeration in the enclaves of Dahagram and Angorpota was foiled today by the Indian nationals along the Bangladesh India border adjoining Rangpur district.

The Bangladesh team which wanted to go to the enclaves for the census work after prior clearance by the Indian Government was attacked with arrows and spears by the Indian Government. The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) failed to offer any protection to the members of the team who had to cancel their programme for the enumeration following the hostile move on the part of the Indian nationals.

The earlier two attempts made for the enumeration work in the two enclaves also could not succeed. The first attempt made in March last failed as the Indian Government did not allow the Bangladesh team to cross the passage along the border to reach the enclaves.

The second attempt, made on May 10 last, also ended in failure because of the hostile attitude of the Indian nationals along the border.

### 4 Hurt in Police Firing

PTI adds from Calcutta: Four persons received bullet injuries when the police opened fire to disperse a violent demonstration in protest against allowing a Bangladesh Census team safe passage by India through Teen Bigha into Bangladesh enclave Dahagram in Coochbihar District this morning for carrying out population count there.

Mr A. K. Sen Chief Secretary told newsmen here in Dahagram itself the Bangladesh team could not proceed beyond 100 yards inside because of massive demonstration there amidst angry slogans "you go back".

The team returned to Bangladesh at 1630 hours despite official instructions from the Government to complete the work.

Mr Sen said the demonstrators had attacked the police at Teen Bigha with bows and arrows and caused grievous injuries to two Police Inspectors. The police first lathi-charged and then opened fire to neutralise the demonstrators.

Mr A. R. Roy Pradhan MP and Mr Sada Kanta Roy MLA have been arrested for leading the demonstration at Teen Bigha.

Mr Sen said prohibitory orders under Section 144 CR PC had been clamped at Teen Bigha following the incident. The External Affairs Minister and the Home Minister had been informed of the incident Mr Sen said.

CSO: 4220/7319

DACCA POLICY ON SPARE PARTS IMPORTS CLARIFIED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Jul 81 p 8

[Text] Attention of the Government has been drawn to a statement given by an Association of owners of industries about the revised rate of import duty and sales tax on machinery and spare parts according to a PID handout.

It may be mentioned that during the past years many industrial units had been sanctioned and set up for manufacture of a variety of spare parts within the country. They are also given the facility of import of raw materials required for manufacture of spare parts. In view of this position there was hardly any justification to continue concessionary rate of import duty at 20 per cent and exemption of sales tax on imported machinery and spare parts. With a view to providing protection to the domestic engineering industries it was therefore, proposed in the budget for 1981-82 that the concessionary rate of duty on spare parts should be withdrawn for imports subsequent to initial installation. However in consideration of the points made by Members of the Parliament on both sides of the House during budget discussions the Finance Minister on his own, announced modification of the earlier proposal. A Note regarding the amended proposal was also circulated before the House and the revised proposal was passed by the Parliament. Under the revised proposal the concessionary rate of duty on spare parts etc. was fixed at 40 per cent along with normal sales tax whereas the normal rate of duty ranged from 50 per cent to 150 per cent along with sales tax. Therefore, even the modified proposal provides substantial concession on imported spare parts etc.

It is not correct that the representatives of the industries had discussion on the matter with the authorities concerned and had assurance for continuance of the concessionary rate of import duty including exemption from sales tax. On the other hand it is in the interest of the country that the domestic engineering industry should be given due protection against imported spare parts and the country should not perpetually be dependent on imported items. It is expected that the above clarification would remove all misunderstanding in the matter and place the matter in correct perspective.

CSO: 4220/7324

DACCA ASKED TO LIBERALIZE POLICY TOWARD JUTE TRADERS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Jul 81 p 3

[Text] Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA) has called upon the government to liberalise its policy towards the private jute traders so that they can operate in the market without any problem.

Addressing a Press conference at the National Press Club on Tuesday, the Chairman of the Association Mr Afazuddin Fakir said that it would not be possible for the private sector traders to engage themselves in the jute trade till government accepted their demands immediately.

The demands of the BJA included: (1) the jute mills should purchase the jute from the exporters which become surplus after exports (2) export duty on raw jute should be totally withdrawn (3) bank credit limit to the private sector jute traders should not be reduced (4) bank interest on the amount invested on the jute cuttings and low grade jute should be exempted.

Mr Fakir said that some five lakh bales of jute cuttings worth about Tk 60 crore (buying price) were now stockpiled in the godowns of the private traders for past three years. He said that they could not sell them while jute mills refused to purchase jute cuttings. There was no demand for these in the foreign markets, he said.

Mr Fakir said that jute mills in the country had always used jute cuttings. But, he alleged that the jute mills had developed a trend of not using the jute cuttings after their nationalisation. He said that this had created two problems: (1) country was facing shortage of good quality jute for export as a huge quantity was being consumed by the local jute mills and (2) growers of the low grade jute were not getting fair price.

Mr Fakir said that it should be made compulsory that the jute mills would have to use jute cuttings and low grade jute. He said that it was not true that jute cuttings could not be used in the jute mills.

Replying to a question Mr. Fakir said that it was not true that the private sector had failed in jute trading. He alleged that the "public sector was trying to prove that the private sector had failed".

CSO: 4220/740

# SCIENTISTS DEVELOP NEW VARIETY OF JUTE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Jul 81 pp 1, 16

[Text] The scientists of Bangladesh Jute Research Institute have evolved a new variety of jute named "Dhab Dhabe Pat" whose fibre as well as stick is white from top to bottom reports BSS.

This was disclosed by Dr. R. A. Ghani State Minister for Science and Technology at a Press conference on Tuesday.

He said that the seed of this variety is deep green in colour and is bigger than the seeds of available varieties.

Dr Ghani said that the fibre of "Dhab Dhabe Pat" (snow white jute) is equally soft from top to bottom as a result of which there will be no waste in the process of bottom cutting. At present 30 to 35 per cent of jute is lost due to bottom cutting he added.

So long the colour of Jute has been yellow is known as the "golden fibre".

The State Minister said that the research work of "Dhab Dhabe Pat" started three and a half years back with only 12 seeds which were cross breded with other varieties.

He said that the initial two generations of the variety were diseaseprone while the present variety (sixth generation) is disease resistant.

In reply to a question the Minister said that this year a farmer in Kaliakoir was cultivating the new variety on 40 decmals of land. He hoped that next year the institute will be able to supply seeds for cultivating 1600 acres of land and it will multiply by 40 times every year.

The germination rate of the seeds was found to be 99 per cent while the per acre production was 42 maunds.

Dr. Ghani said that the soft and snow-white characteristic of "Dhab Dhabe Pat" were attributed by the scientists to the less lignin content. Lignin is responsible for hardness of any natural fibre.

He said that at present the cultivated varieties of jute contain 13 to 14 per cent lignin where as the new variety contains nine to nine and a half per cent lignin.



He said that for woolenisation of jute the lignin content is brought down to eight per cent and the colour also is changed from yellowish to white through chemical treatment. The new variety he said will require less chemical treatment for woolenisation.

Woolenised jute is used for manufacturing different varieties of cloths blankets and wall covers.

Dr. Kazi Akhter Ahmed Executive Director Jute Research Institute and Dr. Erfan Ali Chairman BCSIR Laboratories were also present at the conference.

CSO: 4220/7322

MINISTER SAYS DACCA DETERMINED TO INSURE JUTE PRICE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Nabinagar (Comilla), July 12:--Jute Minister Mr. Habibullah Khan formally inaugurated the season's first lucky jute purchase at the purchase centre of Gul Ahmed Jute Mills here today by purchasing cross bottom white jute at Tk. 151 per maund, says a Press release.

Speaking on the occasion the Minister reiterated the Government's determination to ensure fair price of jute to the growers. He said all the public sector jute mills and agencies will start purchasing jute before the ensuing Eid this year so that the growers might not be deprived of a fair price. He also said all the 69 jute mills of the public sector will purchase 30 per cent more jute this year as compared to last year. He appealed to the jute traders to observe strict honesty in jute trade in the greater interest of the nation.

Mr. Khan told the people that the Government will fully implement the call of late President Ziaur Rahman for industrial revolution as well as his ideals and programmes of production-oriented policies. He informed the audience that the public sector jute mills produced five lakh 80 thousand tons of jute goods this year the highest ever record of production in their history so far. This will continue to increase in future, he added.

The function was attended by a large number of jute growers and jute traders.

The Minister presided over a meeting of Union Parishad Chairmen on Saturday evening which reviewed the progress of development work of Nabinagar Thana for 1980-81.

CSO: 4220/7396

MINISTER ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON JUTE MARKETING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Jute Minister Mr. Habibullah Khan on Wednesday informed the House that at present Bangladesh is supplying 68 per cent of the total world demand for jute while the remaining 32 per cent are met by the other exporting countries reports BSS.

In reply to a question by Mohammad Mohsin (AL-H) Mr. Khan said that during 1970-71 Bangladesh met 44 per cent of the world demand for jute while the other exporting countries supplied 56 per cent.

In reply to another question by Mr. Mohammad Toaha (Mamyabadi Dal), the Minister said that for promotion of marketing of jute in the world market Bangladesh send delegations from time to time consisting of government and nongovernment representatives and takes part in different international export fairs. Some times the embassies also are directed to take necessary steps for marketing promotion he added.

He said that to make the export price competitive the lowest export price is reviewed and refixed from time to time. He said that for the lower grade jute the lowest export price has been withdrawn and export tax has been lowered from 10 per cent to 5 per cent.

In reply to another question the Jute Minister said that the nationalised jute mills made a profit of Taka 116 crore and 66 lakh during 1979-80.

He said that these mills incurred a loss of Taka 254 crore and 66 lakh from 1975 to 1979. In reply to another question Mr. Khan said that there are 106 jute mills under the Jute Mills Corporation which can manufacture sacking, hessian and carpet backing.

In reply to the same questioner he said that there are 37 jute yarn under private sector some of which are in operation and the rest are in the process of implementation.

CSO: 4220/7324

# GOVERNMENT MEASURES ON JUTE TRADE SUPPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Jul 81 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text] The importance of jute in the economy of Bangladesh will continue. It is found to be contributing over fifty per cent of the foreign exchange earnings. And the same trend continues despite efforts of the government in diversifying export and inclusion of new and non-traditional items in the list. The export of jute and jute goods however have expanded in terms of volume over the past few years. But earning per unit has reportedly come down. To that extent the overall contribution of jute to foreign exchange earning remains somewhere at sixty per cent. If a breakthrough in export earning is to be achieved, measures have to be taken to augment earnings from jute side by side with increase in earning and volume of non-traditional items.

And jute has another facet of its own. It continues to be the major cash crop of the farmers, who constitute a majority of the people. It is they who form the backbone of the economy and any amount of increase or decrease of their earnings from jute has direct bearing on their purchasing power. That being so, jute works as the mainstay of the economy and efforts at improving jute trade may have direct bearing on it. Any amount of mismanagement or malpractice in jute trade will therefore have baneful effects. And people at large being not very much alert about the malpractices and their implications, the onus of correcting the trend devolves on the government and the agencies thereunder.

By taking a decision to obviate the problems and malpractices, the government appears to have done their job well. And the efforts at removal of malpractices should obviously be directed to the numerous trading centres of jute in the country. It is common knowledge that people, more so the poor producers of raw jute, are deprived of fair price and down payment by many of the Fariahs who control jute trade at rural level. That being so, the immediate target of the government should be the control and removal of malpractices in local haats and bazars, where poor villagers bring their cash crop for disposal. This is a big job and a clear mandate is to be given to the official agencies charged with the responsibility of controlling malpractices.

In the export sector the prevailing malpractices are connected with delay in shipment, supply of lower quality, under and over-invoicing of jute and jute products and defrauding the exchequer thereby. Such malpractices could be controlled if proper inspection machinery were installed and given the task of

preshipment inspection. Some of the private inspection agencies have done their job in the past and that to the satisfaction of all concerned. If need be, they may be empowered to do the job along with other official agencies. The crux of the whole problem is also linked with the procedural delays which often affect traders and the jute trade as a whole. Efforts have to be made to correct the situation in a planned way. The problem being widespread the network of corrective measures should be cast simultaneously in different aspects of jute trade.

Measures may also be taken to ensure the efficacy of the administrative machinery like the Directorate of Jute which can hardly oversee the work of the corporations engaged in jute trade and the many private exporters that operate in the field. This agency may be empowered to enforce standards and be manned properly for its activities. If necessary this agency may enter into deal with other inspection agencies in countries, where jute and jute goods go, for extending its inspection to all possible places. On the top of all, the government should enforce the norms and standards by punishing the offenders and rewarding the honest among traders and exporters. And such measures should be taken before the jute season ensues.

CSO: 4220/7315



BRIEFS

**NEW GUINEAN AMBASSADOR**--The new Ambassador of Guinea to Bangladesh Mr. Their uo Habib Diallo called on Foreign Minister Prof. Muhammad Shamsul Huq at the Foreign office on Friday morning. Mr. Diallo who has been appointed his country's Resident Ambassador to People's China concurrently accredited to Bangladesh presented his letter of credence to the Acting President Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar on Wednesday at Bangabhaban. He was asked by his Government to present his credentials before OIC peace committee meeting for paying homage to Shaheed President Zia which was scheduled to begin in Dacca on May 29 so that he could participate in it and undertake preparatory action before arrival of President Sekou Toure, the Chairman of the committee. [Excerpts] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Jul 81 p 1]

**ENVOY TO MALAYSIA**--The Government has decided to appoint Mr. A. M. Mustafizur Rahman at present Minister in the Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington, D.C. as High Commissioner for Bangladesh to Malaysia it was officially stated in Dacca on Friday says BSS. Born in 1941 Mr. Rahman obtained his B.Sc. degree from Dacca University in 1963 and joined the erstwhile Pakistan Foreign Service in 1964. He served in a number of missions including those in New Delhi Kathmandu and London. Mr. Rahman was appointed Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1978. He is married and has two children. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Jul 81 p 8]

**TEA POLICY APPROVED**--The Council of Ministers meeting at Bangabhaban on under the chairmanship of Acting President Justice Abdus Sattar approved the tea policy for 1981-82, says an official announcement. Production target of tea has been fixed at 9 crore 50 lakh/Pounds in the new Policy. Out of which, 7 crore 60 lakh/Pounds will be exported, earning an estimated amount of Tk 76 crore in foreign exchange. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 4 Jul 81 p 1]

**ATTACK ON BNP**--Mr. Khaliquzzaman Khan Organising Secretary of the Central Committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Sheikh Showkat Hossain Agricultural Secretary in a joint statement on Friday condemned an attack by Awami League goondas on a meeting of BNP at Natore. Criticising the Awami League General Secretary Mr. Abdur Razzak they said that the protest made by AL General Secretary surprised them because his accusation was to hide their own crime by shifting blames on others. The BNP leaders said that a stuck-load of AL goondas came to Natore from Rajshahi and disturbed them at BNP meeting. They raised slogans and assaulted several Juba Dal leaders including Mr. Shahidul Islam Bachchu the statement said. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 4 Jul 81 p 8]

CANADIAN MINING CONSULTANCY--Bangladesh Mineral Exploration and Development Corporation on Monday signed a contract with the SNC Services Ltd. of Montreal Canada to provide supervisory consultancy services by the latter for the development of hard rock mine at Maddhyapara Dinajpur according to a Press release of BMEDC issued on Monday. The project is expected to be completed within 48 months from the date of signing of the contract with a capacity of producing 17 lakh tons of hard rock annually. The hard rock will be used for embankment railway ballast heavy civil engineering works town protection scheme. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Jul 81 p 1]

MISSIONS IN CHITTAGONG--Maulan Abdus Sobhan, Secretary General of Bangladesh Islamic Democratic League in a statement on Sunday demanded closure of the consulates of the Soviet Union and India at Chittagong. He also demanded reduction in the number of the personnel at the Soviet and Indian missions in Dacca. Maulana Sobhan expressed his concern at what he said involvement of these two countries in conspiracies against Bangladesh by setting up consulates in Chittagong with out permission. He further said that these two consulates were allegedly active immediately after the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Jul 81 p 1]

AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT--The Government has decided to appoint Lt. General (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali BU psc as Ambassador of Bangladesh to The Arab Republic of Egypt says a PID handout. Born in 1938 Lt General (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali obtained B.Sc. degree from Pakistan Military Academy Kakul and was commissioned in the Pakistan Army in April 1958. Lt. General (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali participated in the Bangladesh War of Independence in 1971 and received the Bir Uttam award for gallantry. He was also awarded Rashtrapati Sarna Padak (President Gold Medal) for his contribution in the field of agriculture sports and games. He held appointments as Brigade Commander General Officer Commanding of four different formations General Staff Officer Chief of the General Staff and Principal Staff Officer to the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. He was also Chairman of Old Dacca Development Committee. He was President of Bangladesh Football Federation for two years. He is married and has four children. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Jul 81 p 1]

KUWAITI LOAN--A loan agreement of Kuwaiti diner 7.75 million equivalent to US dollar 27.38 million for deep tubewell project in the north western region of Bangladesh was signed between Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Government of Bangladesh in Kuwait recently reports BSS. The loan agreement was signed on behalf of Bangladesh by Mr. Mohammad Abdul Barek Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait and on behalf of Kuwait Fund by Mr. Sayyad Abdlatif Al-Hamad Chairman of Kuwait Fund and Minister of Finance and Planning of the Government of Kuwait. The total cost of the project is estimated at Kuwaiti diner 15.8 million of which about 49 per cent is covered by Kuwait Fund. The project is expected to be completed in the middle of 1985. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Jul 81 p 1]

**MARXIST-LENINIST LEADER**--Mr. Mohammad Toaha MP Chairman, Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal (Marxist-Leninist) in a statement to the Press on Wednesday called upon the Government to immediately close down the Consulate of Soviet Union and the Deputy High Commissioner of India in Chittagong. He pointed out that in a small country like Bangladesh the Soviet and the Indian missions did not need separate consulate offices. He also called for reduction in the number of personnel employed by these two foreign missions in Bangladesh. Mr. Toaha alleged that Indo-Soviet activities in the region had increased 'beyond the safety limit' and called upon the government to be cautious about them. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Jul 81 p 1]

**SUPPORT FOR SATTAR**--The General Secretary of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal Mr. Saidur Rahman called upon the workers of his organisation to spread to the villages to make the Jatiyatabadi Dal candidate Acting President Justice Abdus Sattar victorious in the forthcoming presidential polls reports BSS. He said the nation will never forget the patience restraints and courage with which Justice Sattar handled the crucial national crisis. The Juba Dal General Secretary told this while addressing different workers' meetings at Dinajpur, Kurigram Nilphamari and Rangpur during the last two days. He urged the Juba Dal workers to form organisations at village level to materialise the dreams of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman. He said only through hard work the ideals of President Zia can be translated into reality. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Jul 81 p 12]

**COMMUNIST'S DEATH**--Mr. Nibaran Chakravarty, a member of Kishoreganj Zilla unit of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) died recently, according to a Press release. Mr. Chakravarty took active part in anti-British movement before 1947. He was detained at Andaman Prison for a long time. He also took part in 'Te-Bhaga' Movement. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 6 Jul 81 p 8]

**NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT**--The newly formed National Democratic Front at its first presidium meeting on Sunday urged the government to call a round table conference to solve the 'political and constitutional problems', according to a Press release. The meeting was presided over by Advocate Shafiqur Rahman. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 6 Jul 81 p 8]

**JATIYA LEAGUE CHIEF**--Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan MP Chief of Bangladesh Jatiya League on Monday described the sixth Amendment Bill of the constitution placed before the Parliament as a "shameful effort" reports BSS. In a statement issued on Monday night the veteran political leader alleged that the Amendment bill of the Constitution was brought in the House to remove the ineligibility of the Acting President for contesting the presidential election. According to the Constitution he said, the Vice-President is unqualified for contesting the election as his post was "office of profit." Mr. Khan also said the Prime Minister's contention of removing the "anomaly" in the constitution "was untrue". He said that the BNP had nominated the Vice-President (the Acting President) hurriedly and did not think it earlier that he (the Acting President) was unfit for contesting the election in accordance with the Constitution. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Jul 81 p 8]

SOVIET OIL COSTS--Petrol and octane procured from Soviet Union under a barter trade agreement during 1980-81 had cost more than those procured from the open market through international tenders. This was disclosed by Deputy Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources at the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday in reply to a starred question from Mr A K Faizul Huq of BNP. Mr Sunil Gupta pointed out the C&F price for Soviet petroleum and octane was 355.17 US dollars per ton while the C&F price for petroleum and octane procured from the open market was 320.50 US dollars per ton. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Jul 81 p 3]

'OBSERVER' EDITOR'S DEATH--Mr. Nazrul Islam, Executive Editor, THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, died of a massive heart attack in Dacca on Thursday night. He was 42 reports BSS. While he was returning home after attending a dinner party at Iraqi Embassy he went to call on the family of late S. M. Pervez, founder editor of the WEEKLY CHITRALI TEHER he suddenly felt sick. Dr Suja, associated with THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, was called in. Dr. Suja proclaimed him dead around 11-30 p.m. Born in Faridpur district Mr Islam graduated himself with honours in History from Dacca University in 1961. He also had his M.A. in the same subject in 1962. He served as a Lecturer in BM College, Barisal. He went to Manila on a SEATO scholarship. He joined the then PAKISTAN OBSERVER as an Assistant Editor. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 17 Jul 81 p 1]

WORKERS PARTY DENIAL--Bangladesh Workers Party has contradicted the report published in THE BANGLADESH TIMES on Thursday about the Baitul Mukarram rally by the three-party alliance. In a statement to the Press on Thursday, Mr Paresh Chandra Shaha, Chief Coordinator of the city unit of the party, said that it was not true that the workers of the party did not attend the rally. He said that the workers from different areas of the city were late to arrive at the venue due to rains, but most of the leading workers were present to join with procession from the beginning. However, he claimed workers from different areas began to join the procession immediately it had started and the workers of the three party alliance were there when it ended at Sadarghat. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 17 Jul 81 p 8]

JAMAAT RESOLUTIONS REPORTED--The Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh has demanded withdrawal of the proclamation of emergency to ensure what it called free and fair presidential election. The Majlis-e-Shura, which began its meeting on Friday also pleaded for the shifting of the election date to November. In another resolution, the meeting condemned the communal riots in India and said that the Muslims and lower caste Hindus had become victims of harassment and intimidation by the Brahmins. The meeting called upon the Muslim world to create pressure on India for the safety and security of the minority communities in India. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 17 Jul 81 p 8]

MUSLIM LEAGUE MP DIES--Mr. Ibrahim Khalil MP died on heart ailment on Tuesday at Bromton Hospital London. He was 38 reports BSS. The young Muslim League (Sabur) Parliamentarian died at 12 noon London time (6 p.m. Bangladesh time). Mr. Khalil was sent to London for treatment about a fortnight back. His wife was at his side when he died. According to party sources in Dacca on Tuesday night. [Excerpt] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Jul 81 pp 1, 16]



**MAGAZINE ISSUES BANNED**--The Government has forfeited all copies of the two issues of FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW published from Hongkong dated 19th June, 1981 and 10th July 1981, says a PID handout. A notification, issued on Thursday by the Ministry of Home Affairs says that the action has been taken under the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1898 (V of 1898) as the said issues of the magazine contain matters which tend to promote or attempt to promote feelings of enmity and hatred between different classes of citizens of Bangladesh, publication of which is punishable under the Penal Code. All other documents containing copies, reprints and translations of these two issues of FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, or extracts therefrom, have also been forfeited to the Government, the notification adds. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jul 81 p 3]

**GREETINGS TO MPR**--The Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Yumjaagyn Tsedenbal, Chairman of the Presidium of People's Khural of the Mongolian Republic on the occasion of its Revolution Day, reports BSS. In his message the Acting President said: "On behalf of the Government and the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf I extend to Your Excellency our sincere felicitations on the auspicious occasion on the People's Revolution Day of the Mongolian People's Republic. I am confident that relations between our two countries will continue to grow in the years to come. I wish Your Excellency good health happiness and long life and the Mongolian people peace, prosperity and progress. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Jul 81 p 1]

**COTTAGE INDUSTRY COORDINATION**--Government has set up a National Coordination Council for the development of small and cottage industries of the country under a gazette notification said an official Press release on Saturday. The first meeting of the coordination council will be held at 9 a.m. on July 14. State Minister for Industries will preside over the meeting said the Press release. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Jul 81 p 1]

**BNP EXPELLEES**--The National Standing Committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in its meeting on Saturday approved expulsion of four leaders of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Tongi regional unit and eight leaders of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal from respective fronts of the party says a BNP Press release. They are Mohammad Hossain, Vice-President, Abul Kalam Joint Secretary Kasimuddin, Sports and Cultural Secretary and Hasanuddin, member Executive Committee of Tongi regional committee of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal. Those expelled from Jubo Dal are: Shakhawat Hossain Faltu Secretary Central Committee Nurul Islam Goshai, member Central Committee, A. K. M. Nijamuddin Khan Organising Secretary, Hanif Mamun Literary Secretary, Shahadat Hossain, Communication Secretary Abul Khair Rushdi member of Chandpur District Unit, Sadek Hossain, General Secretary of Daudkandi thana unit and Fakrul Islam Nasu, member Chandpur District unit. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Jul 81 p 1]

**NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT**--The National Democratic Front, at a meeting on Sunday decided to take part in the coming presidential election. Presided over by Dr K N Islam convener, Jatiya Sevak Dal, the meeting however reiterated its call to the Government to convene a round table conference in order to fix a suitable date for the presidential polls. In a resolution, the meeting condemned the obstacle organised by the Indian nationals against the Bangladesh personnels in their official work of census in Dahogram and Angarpota. The meeting urged the Government to take immediate effective measures to stop recurrence of such incidents. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 13 Jul 81 p 1]



**IRAQI REVOLUTION DAY**--A grand reception was held in Dacca on Thursday to mark the 17th July Revolution of Iraq, reports ENA. The reception was arranged by Iraqi Ambassador in Bangladesh and Madam Karim at a local hotel. The reception was attended among others by Foreign Minister Prof. Shamsul Hoq, Civil Aviation Minister K. M. Obaidur Rahman Jute Minister Habibullah Kahan Religious Affairs Minister Abdur Rahman Planning Minister Fasihuddin Mahtab and Health Minister Abdul Matin. Among the political leaders present at the reception were Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina, Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal chief Major (Retd) M. A. Jalil and the party General Secretary A. S. M. Abdur Rab. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jul 81 p 3]

**JAMAAT IN ELECTIONS**--The Central Committee of Jamat-e-Islami has decided to participate in the ensuing presidential election. A 21-member election committee has also been formed to implement the party decision in this regard. The committee in a resolution adopted at its three-day meeting concluding on Friday took this decision. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan Acting Amir of the party presided over the meeting. It may be mentioned that Jamat-e-Islami has not yet joined any alliance. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Jul 81 p 1]

**MESSAGE TO BRITAIN**--The British High Commissioner Sir Michael Scott was called to the Foreign Office in Dacca to convey the anxieties of the Government of Bangladesh over the attack on a Bangladeshi national in Manchester says an official Press release reports BSS. The Press release issued by the Foreign office said it was hoped that the British Government would take necessary measures to protect the lives and properties of Bangladeshis in the United Kingdom. The Government of Bangladesh earlier had conveyed concern and anguish to the British Government about the deteriorating racial situation in Britain. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Jul 81 p 1]

**MESSAGE TO PRC**--Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar has sent the following message of sympathy to Mr Zhao Ziyang; Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China at the loss of life and damage to property due to flood in some areas of central China, according to BSS. 'We are distressed to learn about the unprecedented flood devastating some areas of central China and causing loss of life and considerable damage to property. The Government and the people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh join me in expressing their sympathy for the flood victims. We are confident that the friendly people of China would be able to overcome this natural calamity. Please accept; Excellency; the assurances of my highest consideration'. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 18 Jul 81 p 1]

**SPORTS MINISTRY CHARGE**--Dr. Faziul Karim State Minister in charge of the Ministry of Health and Population Control took over charge of the Ministry of Sports & Culture on Wednesday says an official handout. Dr. Karim later on had a meeting with the senior officials of the Ministry and different departments and organisations working under it. The State Minister advised the officials to be sincere and active in carrying out their respective responsibilities for the greater interest of the nation and for speedy materialisation of socio-economic and cultural development programmes initiated by the late dynamic leader President Ziaur Rahman. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jul 81 p 3]

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY CHARGE--Mr. Amirul Islam Kalam, State Minister in charge of the Ministry of Sports and Cultural Affairs has taken over the charge of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests on Wednesday morning, says a PID handout. The State Minister later met the senior officials of the Ministry, attached departments and corporations under the Ministry. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jul 81 p 8]

BNP EXECUTIVE MEMBER--Acting Chairman of the BNP Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar on Saturday appointed Syed Motiul Islam of Comilla as a member of the National Working Committee of the party, according to a BNP Press release, reports ENA. BSS adds: Md. Abdus Samad Member National Council of Bangladesh Nationalist Party was on Saturday expelled from the organisation for "violating" party discipline, according to a Press release. A decision to this effect was unanimously taken at a meeting of the National Standing Committee of BNP in Dacca on Saturday. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Jul 81 p 1]

ISRAELI RAID CONDEMNED--Bangladesh on Saturday strongly condemned the repeated acts of atrocity committed by Israel by bombing Lebanon an official spokesman told BSS. The repeated bombing by Israel has caused heavy loss of life of civilian population including women and children in Lebanon. The spokesman described the Israeli act as "a blatant violation" of the UN Charter and all canons of international laws and norms posing a serious threat to international peace and security. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Jul 81 p 1]

INDIAN RIOTS CONDEMNED--Various political parties and organisations on Friday condemned the communal riots in Hyderabad state of India. Kazi Abdul Kader, MP Secretary General of Bangladesh Muslim League in a statement called upon the Muslim world and the Islamic Secretariat to come forward to save the lives and property of the Muslim minorities in India. The President of Bangladesh Jubo Muslim League in a statement on Friday called upon the Muslim World to build up resistance against secular India where communal riots were continuing. Secretary General of Bangladesh Islamic Democratic League Moulana Mohammad Abdus Sobhan in a statement expressed his party's concern over the communal riots in India. He called upon the Organisation of Islamic Conference and all international organisations to exert pressure on India to stop communal riots. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 19 Jul 81 p 3]

CSO: 4220/7417/7418

## DISSATISFACTION WITH INDIA-EEC AGREEMENT NOTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Jul 81 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] India's new five-year agreement for trade and economic cooperation with such a large economic bloc of advanced countries as the European Economic Community has failed to generate much enthusiasm, mainly because the earlier agreement of 1973 has not worked to this country's advantage to the extent envisaged. Except in 1976-77, India has been in deficit in trade with the EEC, and the gap has been widening in recent years, rising to Rs 438 crores in 1979-80 and Rs 783 crores in the first half of 1980-81. The EEC view is that about 43 per cent of its imports from India in the industrial sector enter free of duty and that the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) compensates this country for the loss of the Commonwealth preference it enjoyed before Britain joined the Common Market. However, the benefits of any trade liberalization should be reflected in the volume and value of India's exports. Unfortunately, there was a substantial 25 per cent decline in exports from this country last year, while the richer partner, the EEC, has greatly benefited by the policies of import liberalization followed by India in the last three years. The reason for such imbalances may be found in the protectionist policies or the preferential margins of the industrial nations, particularly in textiles and garments, leather and leather goods and tobacco. Indian authorities also complain that there has been poor response to their requests for inter-country transfer of textile quotas. A new disturbing trend which has come to light is West European purchase of India's oil cake extractions with rupees in Soviet hands, depriving this country of substantial foreign exchange earnings.

If the recent trends in exports to the EEC are not quickly reversed, the new agreement can have little value. Nor can India, already facing a mounting payments burden caused by oil prices, be able to maintain imports at the same level as before. It is possible that the bilateral arrangements with individual member countries of the EEC, such as Britain, West Germany and France, can make up for the shortcomings of the EEC's collective policies. The new administration in France is expected to be more considerate in these matters than its predecessor. Many of the specific instances of protectionism or discrimination may also come up for scrutiny in various international gatherings for conducting the North-South dialogue. However, the new India-EEC agreement provides for broad-based consultations on all economic and commercial matters, inducing cooperation in science and technology, research and development, and joint ventures in third countries. This machinery should be activated and fully utilized to sort out the issues on which there has been justifiable dissatisfaction on this side.

CSO: 4220/7281

## IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONS WITH ASEAN STRESSED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Jul 81 p 8

[Article by Sujoy Gupta]

[Text]

**T**HERE are strong rumours in Manila that the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has accepted an invitation from President Ferdinand Marcos to visit the Philippines. If this is true, the visit could herald a breakthrough in Indo-Philippine relations. Residents of Manila know of the painstaking care with which Mr and Mrs Marcos had prepared for the visit of the former President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed which was aborted by his sudden death. Constant and high-level contacts should be ordinarily maintained between India and the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations, comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand).

But it is a regrettable fact that relations between India and the ASEAN are now at an all-time low. India's recognition of the Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea caused all-round unhappiness among the ASEAN members, who view with consternation the possibility of super-power entry into the region through the back door. Obviously, India's reassurances in this regard have lacked conviction. The recent ASEAN Foreign Ministers' conference pointedly ignored India while sending out invitations to much more distant countries.

## SCOPE FOR TRADE

It is a pity that India's failure to be one with the ASEAN politically has affected its prospects in trade and commerce with the region. The economies of the South-East Asian nations are not only expanding rapidly but they are also welcoming foreign capital, technology and skills. Despite the abundance of natural

resources—tin, rubber, palm oil, coconut oil and copra, timber, and so on—the industrial infrastructure in this region is still not well developed; so the present situation offers virtually unlimited entrepreneurial opportunities to foreign investors.

Traditionally, the ASEAN has turned towards Japan and the USA for material, financial and managerial support. Not only has it been a big importer of capital in the recent past, it would continue to be so in the foreseeable future. Government owned or backed institutions as well as private undertakings have been seeking and getting enormous Eurodollar financing from commercial banks. With recession in the USA, stagnation in Europe and rampant uncertainties in West Asia, the only region in the world relatively free of strife and turmoil and offering fairly stable conditions for a free enterprise system is South-east Asia.

But where is the Indian presence in what is culturally and geographically its "home ground"? From rice research to development banking post-independence India has already been through the same experience which most of the ASEAN nations are now facing, and there is ample scope for cooperation between the two.

The fault, unfortunately, "lies in ourselves". After the days of Nehru and Soekarno, India has drifted further and further away from the comity of South-east Asian nations. Despite the cultural affinities, India's neglect of this region has led to the present impasse, yet there is still an enormous amount of goodwill for India at the personal level in these countries.

However, to put the record straight, it must be said that the

Indian private sector has achieved a fair amount of success despite considerable odds. A large number of joint ventures have been launched, especially in Malaysia, and many more are on the anvil. The private sector has already convinced itself of the potentialities of the region.

Another industry which has aroused itself lately to the favourable prospects in South-east Asia is banking. The State Bank of India operates as many as four offices in the area—at Hong Kong, Singapore, Manila and Djakarta—of which the first two are full-fledged offshore banking units carrying out brisk business in Eurocurrency loans and syndications. Some other Indian banks also operate one or two branches. The latest addition is a deposit-taking company registered in Hong Kong and jointly owned by three Indian banks. Indian banks have management interest in at least one major Malaysian bank. Needless to say, the existence of an adequate Indian banking base in the region is sine qua non for the subsequent growth of Indian business interests there.

## RICE RESEARCH

A number of other fields appropriate for mutual cooperation remain largely unexplored. Rice research is one. The Philippines turned itself from a deficit to a surplus country in rice production through its highly successful 'masagana' programme. Indonesia, too, is striving hard to become self-sufficient in food. The International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines—of which India is a founder member and where several Indian scientists and agronomists have earned a name for themselves—



can surely undertake joint ventures with India.

Another such area is that of human settlements. The Philippines has taken a lead under the personal guidance of Mrs. Marcos. The efforts of the island republic of Singapore are well-known, as also the Indonesian plans to "de-congest" Java. One wonders how much interchange of ideas has occurred between India and these nations in areas which are clearly of common concern.

The key to defining the basic Indian strategy with the ASEAN should be to recognize that these countries, with their policies pragmatically oriented towards economic growth, will welcome India's participation as a commercially interested and technologically capable partner, despite differences in political perceptions. However, it ought to be remembered that India is not a "natural" member of the ASEAN.

The ASEAN is under considerable Chinese or ethnic Chinese influence. Also, their past history has made the ASEAN mem-

bers staunchly anti-Communist (Communist parties being banned in most of them), a trait which India does not share. India's perception of China and of the Indo-Chinese region is quite different from that of the ASEAN. That the ASEAN has hitherto cold-shouldered even geographically contiguous countries like Burma, Papua New Guinea, Brunei and Sri Lanka indicates that India's desire for closer relations might not be reciprocated. This is because politically, militarily and strategically, India is not all that relevant to the ASEAN nations.

### TOKEN CREDIT

However, India's relevance lies in areas where it can play a role in strengthening the ASEAN members economically and industrially. Although China has already pre-empted the benefactor's role in this field by pumping in vast quantities of goods on deferred credit and India's role has so far been woeful, the first small step in this direction

was taken recently with the Industrial Development Bank of India sanctioning a token credit of \$20 million to the Development Bank of the Philippines to be utilized for the export from India of engineering and other goods.

But even this venture was marked by poor salesmanship. When the Chinese signed a deferred credit agreement recently, one of their vice-premiers flew down to Manila to meet President Marcos for the ceremony, and China received an enormous amount of publicity. India's decision about the IDBI aid was communicated to the Philippines Minister of Industry by a letter signed by a minor IDBI departmental head and sent by post.

Nevertheless, a beginning has been made towards economic co-operation. This is a hopeful sign. Clearly, this aspect can continue to develop despite differences on the diplomatic front. But even here, our role has not been exemplary.



YOUTH CONGRESS-I PARLEY REPORTED, RAJIV INTERVIEWED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Jul 81 p 4

[Text] Srinagar, July 12 (UNI).

The Youth Congress (I)'s national council which met here today took a number of decisions to make the organisation more effective as the youth wing of the Congress (I).

While it decided to form a "youth brigade" for rescue and relief work during times of natural calamities, the national council opposed the return to the Congress (I) of those who had held responsible posts in past but deserted the party in 1977 or later.

The resolution to bar the re-entry of "deserters" was moved by the former Youth Congress (I) president, Mr Ramachandra Rath, and unanimously passed.

The another resolution moved by the Union deputy minister, Mr. P. K. Tungon, the national council meeting said indiscipline in the party in any form would be dealt with seriously, including expulsion.

Political Programme

Briefing newsmen after the council meeting, the Youth Congress (I) chief, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, said a task force of a minimum of 500 youths would be raised in each state to fight natural calamities, he added.

Mr. Azad said it has been decided for the first time to introduce a political programme in the party.

The Youth Congress (I) also decided to help handicapped and pensioners.

It was decided to set up a training camp in Delhi by the end of August to impart political training to workers.

Later, political training would be imparted at the district and block levels.

He said a national convention of Youth Congress (I) would be held in the third week of December in which about 25,000 functionaries would take part.

A six-day youth festival would be held in Delhi starting from a January 24, Mr. Azad said.

The council fixed ten blood donation days in a year, including Republic Day, May 27 Nehru's death anniversary, June 23 (Sanjay Gandhi's death anniversary) and December 14 (Sanjay Gandhi's birth anniversary). Other programmes to be implemented include providing free legal aid and setting up of eye camps.

On Party Govts.

Talking to newsmen after attending the meeting, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said it was the duty of the party high command to point out the shortcomings of Congress (I)-ruled states and find suitable alternatives.

He said if such state governments do not act properly, the high command had a responsibility to reactivate them.

He said in the case of Rajasthan, the decision was taken by the Congress (I) parliamentary board and they were within their rights to point out the shortcomings of Congress (I) governments.

Mr. Gandhi made these observations when a newsman asked him to comment on the resignation of the Rajasthan chief minister, Mr. Jagannath Pahadia.

Asked about his assessment of the Jammu and Kashmir pradesh Congress (I) committee, Mr. Gandhi remarked that his party had to do a lot and work hard to make the Congress (I) a viable alternative to the National Conference headed by Sheikh Abdullah.

Asked if he had any political discussions with the Sheikh whom he met yesterday, Mr. Gandhi replied in the negative.

Asked whether the PCC(I) would be strengthened by the entry of the former Janata Party leader, Mr. Mohiuddin Kara, and the "Inqilabi" National Conference chief, Mirza Afzal Beg, he said it depended much on how they acted and worked.

He reiterated that the Congress (I) must strengthen itself at the grassroots level.

Asked to comment on the resolution adopted by the Youth Congress (I) national council meeting to the effect that those partymen who defected in 1977 should not be admitted to the party, he said it was for the Congress working committee to take a proper decision.

CSO: 4220/7280

## CPI-M POLITBURO ISSUES STATEMENT ON BANKING MEASURES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Jul 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] The CP-M feels that the two ordinances proclaimed on Saturday were intended to show that the Government is dealing firmly with the upper sections in order to provide a 'facade for attacking the workers and lower income groups.'

In a statement on Sunday, the CP-M Politbureau warned that the Congress-I Government at the Centre was moving towards imposing the Compulsory Deposit Scheme on the workers and salary earning employees and freezing their wages and DA.

Reviewing the economic measures the Government has taken and their inevitable effect, the PB observed: 'All this is bound to lead to further attacks on the living standards of the people and one should not be surprised if the notorious CDS of the Emergency days is reintroduced to impound the bonus and DA of the workers and employees.'

It was of the considered opinion that unless the Government's policies were combated through public pressure and action, the 'economy will be in a shambles leading to untold suffering and loss of democratic rights.'

The PB noted that the rise in prices of petroleum was bound to have a chain effect and impose a burden of not less than Rs 1,000 crores of rupees on the people. This, it held, 'accelerates the effects of inflation and victimises the people.'

Describing the claims of Mrs Gandhi of having allowed down the rate of inflation as 'unrealistic', the statement read: 'It is quite clear that the Government has only one method of containing inflation, namely, raise the prices and curtail the consumption of the people. This is called demand management which only means that the people should bear the entire burden of inflation.'

The PB said the perilous condition of the economy was further revealed by the decision to import wheat from abroad and squander the foreign exchange resources in the midst of a bountiful harvest. Denouncing this step, the CP-M underlined: 'It is obvious that the Government's procurement policies have failed and at the same time it does not have the courage to deboard the stocks with the traders and landlords.'

In this situation, the PB predicted that 'food prices will soon rise, people will be forced to consume less and Venkataraman will satisfy himself with success in demand management.' Moreover, the Government was seeking huge loans from the IMF and other foreign sources 'which will enhance the burden of foreign payments and compel India to sell her exports at any cost.'

The net result, would be assaults on the rights and privileges of the working populace, it emphasised.

CSO: 4220/7284

# MIZO NATIONAL FRONT 'REIGN OF TERROR' ALLEGED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] Members of the Mizo National Front (MNF) had let loose a reign of terror and were inciting insurgency in Mizoram by their unlawful actions, according to sources in the State ruling party, reports UNI.

They allege that the ceasefire agreement with MNF chief Laldenga notwithstanding, the front was trying to establish a parallel government within Mizoram and impeding the administrative process.

Claiming that there were innumerable ceasefire violations, the sources said the people in the State and those working in the Government were a demoralised lot. They complied with the demands of the MNF for fear of retribution.

The sources said everybody in the State sought a peaceful settlement. The State Government, on its part, had shown utmost restraint so that an atmosphere conducive for talks prevailed.

These sources say gun-totting MNF men indulged in violent acts with virtual immunity. "We expect the Centre to put an end to this," they said.

The sources wondered why the Government was not resolving the Laldenga issue expeditiously, especially in the face of increasing law and order problems.

They feel a decision one way or the other should be taken so that energies could be channelised for developmental works. "Mizoram is very backward and at least 25 years behind other States in the country."

They want the entire MNF to come overground with all their weapons. "The people (in the State) want a solution without recourse to violence and through peaceful negotiations."

They said it would be wrong for anybody to say that insurgency in the State was on the wane. "It was so a year ago and was being revitalised."

The sources said that travelling on the Silchar-Aizawl highway was a nightmare. Plying of vehicles had thinned down considerably because of alleged extortion of money by MNF men. A Mizo might have to dish out Rs 500 and a non-Mizo, twice that amount and Government servants have to pay a certain percentage of their salaries ranging from two to five per cent.



There was least resistance from the people. Non-compliance would mean being threatened by dire consequences. Because of this, people lived in "pathetic fear" and rarely reported these to the police, the sources said.

Brigadier T Sailo, Mizoram Chief Minister, in an address to the MNF underground in May this year urged them to refrain from these "acts of violence and other unlawful activities" which was making them unpopular.

Pointing out that Mr Laldenga's demands were similar to those of other parties in the State, Brig Sailo stressed these could be achieved through peaceful negotiations.

CSO: 4220/7284

MAHARASHTRA PLANS STEPS TO IMPROVE ECONOMY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Pune, July 12.

The Maharashtra government has widened the scope of the definition of "small and marginal farmers," benefiting 12 lakh middle farmers.

The Maharashtra cabinet, which concluded its meeting here today, took the decision to this effect.

Briefing newsmen on the decision, the chief minister, Mr. A. R. Antulay, said till now those holding three hectares of land were treated as small farmers and were being extended credit facilities from financial institutions. Now the limit had been raised to six hectares of land, or to cover those farmers who had been paying land revenue of Rs. 15.

Another important decision of the state cabinet was to treat hilly tracts and drought-prone areas as backward regions. This decision will have its impact on rural development. Hitherto, Konkan, Marathwada and Vidarbha regions had been treated as backward. The government has now added two other zones to this category.

Mr. Antulay said funds would be allocated for the two regions with the specific intention of providing them with irrigation facilities and creating permanent facilities for their future development. These plans would be implemented from the next financial year, he added.

The government also decided to set up a dye-manufacturing factory in Khed taluka of Pune district where "hindi" plants were in plenty. The factory would be in the cooperative sector for the benefit of the Chamar community engaged in tanning.

Bamboo cultivation would be taken up on a large scale in the Adivasi belt of Pune and Nasik districts with the objective of setting up a co-operative factory for paper manufacturing.

PIT adds: Opening engineering and veterinary colleges in western Maharashtra and starting double shifts in it is from the current session were some of the other decisions taken by the cabinet. The cabinet also decided to open a

separate department to expedite pension cases. Paper factories, also on cooperative basis, will be set up in the Adivasi areas of the state.

Mr. Antulay said the cabinet decided to have a separate department also for rehabilitation.

The decisions to have separate departments for rehabilitation and pensions were taken in view of the inordinate administrative delays. Every department would have a pension cell. The central pension department under the chief secretary would coordinate the disposal of pension cases.

He said a proposal for a separate minister for pensions would also be considered as the finance minister was already hard pressed.

The chief minister said a complete reorganisation of all the departments to ensure result-oriented work instead of administrative convenience was in the offing. A committee headed by the chief secretary had been appointed to work out details for this purpose.

Mr. Antulay said water logging and salination had become a problem for cultivators, especially in western Maharashtra. A committee headed by the chief secretary would study in what manner the state government could share the expenditure for laying drainages to clear water logging.

CSO: 4220/7279

MADHYA PRADESH MINISTERS ASSIGNED NEW DUTIES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] Bhopal, July 12 (UNI)--Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Arjua Singh today entrusted some additional departments to two Cabinet Ministers and four Ministers of State in a further reshuffle of portfolios within two weeks of a major operation of the kind.

While retaining Harijan welfare and tribal sub-plan portion of the tribal and Harijan welfare department, the Chief Minister has given the remaining subjects under the department to Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Bhawar Singh Porte.

Public Works Minister Miss Vimla Verma has been given the additional charge of transport. Minister of State Miss Kamala Devi, who earlier had the independent charge of social welfare and transport departments, will now be attached to Miss Verma in charge of transport department and to the Chief Minister for tribal and Harijan welfare.

Minister of State for Collegiate Education Motilal Vera will also be the Minister of State for Local Government, and Mr Bhawanilal Verma, Minister of State for Religious Trusts and Endowments, will also look after the revenue department under Revenue Minister Dr Tumanlal.

Minister of State for Agriculture B R Yadav has been given additional charge of veterinary fisheries and dairies departments.

CSO: 4220/7284

## TRANSNATIONALS 'NOT INCLINED TO RAISE INDIAN EXPORTS'

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] Transnational Corporations (TNCs) are 'little inclined' to increase their share in the export of Indian manufactures despite increasing pressures on them under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), reports UNI.

A study by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) on TNCs role in India's exports says that the subsidiaries of the TNCs operating in India are mainly considered by their parent companies as suppliers to India's vast growing domestic market.

These subsidiaries are seldom used as exporting units in the overall international trade plan of the TNCs.

The aggregate marketing support that the TNCs have provided for the exports of some countries such as South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong is seldom made available in India.

The intention of the TNCs has been to keep up the minimum export level set by the Government.

Many firms have continued to operate what has been a comparatively minor operation in the domestic market and hope that at some time in the future they will gain access to the enormous potential of the local market.

The study by Dr Sumitra Chatterjee of the IIFT, was carried out with the financial assistance of International Trade Centre, Geneva. It is based on overseas interviews with the representatives of TNCs based on the United Kingdom, the United States and the Netherlands having their subsidiaries in India.

Regarding the role of the TNCs in India during the 1980s the IIFT study says, the export of India's manufactures by the existing TNCs is not likely to grow to any significant extent during the decade it is also unlikely that a significant number of the new TNCs will locate themselves in India for exports.

The reason for assigning low priority to India for exports by the TNCs despite the known advantages of abundant skilled and unskilled manpower and high level of industrial development is that the Indian domestic market holds a great attraction as the TNCs can sell their products usually at higher prices than those which prevail in the world market.



Also there are several infrastructural and bureaucratic difficulties in expanding exports. Besides the TNCs are reluctant to invest purely for exports in view of the uncertain trends in the world economy especially the fear of the emergence of protectionism.

There are two other reasons for the new TNCs hesitation to enter India for export first access to the markets, in many countries is becoming a problem. Export processing zones are being seen as involving increasingly risky investment.

Secondly there have been complementary changes in technology which have reduced the advantage of cheap labour in developing countries.

The IIFT study found little evidence of any strategy by the TNCs to promote products of export interest to India.

CSO: 4220/7284

## EFFORTS AT, PROSPECTS OF OPPOSITION UNITY REVIEWED

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Jul 81 p 8

[Article by K. K. Katyal]

[Text]

**"T**HE Opposition could unite only if Mrs. Indira Gandhi were to order the arrest of top non-Congress (I) leaders," says a veteran who actively worked for the formation of the Janata Party in 1977. This obviously is an admission that but for the stimulant provided by the governmental action against them, the Opposition groups would not have come together. And by the same token, he would write off the chances of Opposition unity now in the absence of an external superimposition.

An extremely cynical view no doubt but was not the Opposition badly fragmented and did it not find itself slumping whenever the occasion demanded a collective move in the last 18 months?

It will be unrealistic to pin great hopes on the initiative of the Janata President, Mr. Chandra Shekhar for a meeting of his colleagues in the Opposition camp to discuss electoral reforms. True, the response to his invitation is encouraging and leaders of all parties, including those who did not want to be seen in each other's company, have agreed to participate in the discussions. But this by itself does not signify the will to get closer, or to submerge the numerous differences in the cause of unity. In any case, there is no justification to jump to the conclusion, as some have done, that a federal party is in the offing.

**Modest objective**

Mr. Chandra Shekhar's move is to be appraised in the context of the objective reality and the temptation to blow it into a larger-than-life dimension is to be resisted. Even he has a modest objective in view. Because of their experiences in the recent by-elections and the drubbing received by all of them, except the marxists in their stronghold, West Bengal, all non-Congress (I) parties are in a mood to consider measures to ensure fairness and freedom of poll processes.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar has sought to exploit this anxiety for the purpose of bringing them together and giving them an opportunity to concentrate on issues on which the scope for disagreement is minimal. The subject of their discussion is relevant to them no doubt, but more important is the intention to demonstrate to the people that the Opposition groups could join hands on issues of vital concern.

The idea is neither to get bogged in academic discussion nor to seek formal unity but to try to create an infrastructure of joint action on issue to issue.

The success of the initiative would be judged by the extent to which it is able to break the ice of the past and motivate Opposition representatives for collective moves without compromising their ideological positions. Only if there is a breakthrough it would be realistic to talk of the unity of parties, loose or rigid.

**Crucial 'if'**

This 'if' is crucial. The hang-over of the past, of the events that led to the collapse of the Janata Government or the split of the non-Congress (I) parties, both before and after the Lok Sabha poll, frustrated the sporadic moves for unity in the Opposition camp.

For instance, the former Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, would have nothing to do with those who, he feels, betrayed him at a critical moment, like Mr. Raj Narain, Mr. Charan Singh, Mr. H. N. Bahuguna, Mr. Jagjivan Ram and Mr. Madhu Limaye.

Mr. Charan Singh is allergic to Mr. Raj Narain and Mr. Chandrabjit Yadav among others, who left the Lok Dal after a show of defiance, to which he (Mr. Charan Singh) was not used. Mr. Chandra Shekhar does not like Mr. Jagjivan Ram and vice versa — the two did not get on well in the Janata Party, and the latter's switch to the Congress (I) made things worse.

This being the degree of personal animosity, the get-together of Opposition leaders will, no doubt, be an achievement but judgment would have to be reserved on the quality of their decisions.

The presence of non-Congress (I) leaders at one forum may serve to end the feelings of untouchability entertained by some for ideological reasons. Have not the two communist parties, on the one hand, and the BJP on the other, declined to maintain more than the barest minimum contact, unavoidable for functioning in Parliament with each other?

Some time ago, the CPI (M) persuaded itself to involve the BJP in a broad campaign against what it perceived was a serious bid by the Centre to topple the Governments of West Bengal and Kerala. The BJP rejected the idea, partly because of its pique over the CPI (M)'s attitude towards it in the past and partly because the two parties confronted each other in Kerala.

#### Uncalled for euphoria

Garniwal, which will be the scene of a re-play of Mr. Bahuguna's contest with his Congress (I) rival, too has given the Opposition parties a common cause to fight for. But this, at best, is a symbolic struggle and has a limited promise for a sustained effort, even if some of the participants had not been reluctant.

Because of the combined effect of Mr. Chandra Shekhar's initiative and Garniwal poll, a lot would be heard in the near future about Opposition unity but there is nothing to suggest it could be taken for granted. The forces that pull them apart are far more powerful than those that tend to bring them closer and unless this correlation varies, any euphoria in the Opposition camp would be uncalled for.

What other conclusion could be drawn in view of the record of the Opposition, particularly, its non-communist segment? The experiment of the six-party front, a semi-formal grouping of the Opposition, did more damage than good. The start made by the constituents, the Lok Dal, Congress (U), CPI (M), CPI, RSP and Forward Bloc, was promising and their resolve for a joint fight on three issues, rising prices, civil liberties and communalism, appeared serious. But soon the Congress (U) enthusiasm began to wane. The party's link with the Front turned out to be tenuous — through individual office-bearers and not through its institutional organs.

Later, the Lok Dal's ties with the CPI (M) an important feature of the re-alignment of 1979 cooled off because of the developments in Kerala and West Bengal, so much so that one architect of the front, Mr. Madhu Limaye, wrote to another, the CPI (M) leader, Mr. E. M. S. Namboodiripad, seeking clarification of the Ruling Front's attitude towards the Lok Dal in the two States. The inception of the six-party front

annoyed the Janata Party and the BJP, though for different reasons. In any case, the Front as such ceased to operate.

#### Floor coordination

The fate of another experiment, floor coordination in Parliament, was no happier. This too began on a note of optimism which turned out unrealistic later. Opposition groups — of all shades and complexions — decided, on the eve of last year's winter session, to coordinate their strategies in the two Houses of Parliament on issues on which there was no differences among them. They even identified the issues like the Government's frequent recourse to ordinances, preventive detention, Maruti company, pressure on Governors appointed during the Janata regime, inquiry into the Pits crash (in which Sanjay Gandhi died) law and order, the Presidential form of Government and rising prices and shortages of essential items.

The coordination was to be effected through frequent informal meetings of Opposition leaders — the idea of a formal steering committee, though mooted, did not find favour with them. Somehow, the strategy did not work on the very first day of the session and setbacks followed in a quick succession.

In the resultant disenchantment, several Opposition seniors began doubting the feasibility of the arrangement. The floor coordination, they argued, gave them a theoretical satisfaction of pillorying the Government in Parliament while the Opposition groups remained a fragmented lot outside, with some of them openly clashing with each other. The experiment was given up.

Some two months ago, on the eve of the by-elections, the Opposition camp hummed once again with the talk of unity. The former Steel Minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, the initiator of the floor coordination plan, brought Opposition leaders together more than once, at socials at his New Delhi residence to work for a very limited objective, that is, avoidance of contests among non-Congress (I) groups and a united fight to the ruling party through adjustment of seats.

Here again, the initial enthusiasm yielded place to bitter wrangles. There were competing claims by the Lok Dal and the BJP for the share of seats in U.P., with the former insisting on the State being regarded as its stronghold and the latter maintaining that it had emerged as a reckonable force in the new context. The Congress (U) and the Janata party too found it hard to accept the claims of the others. Each of the Opposition group thus appeared in the electoral arena with exaggerated notions of its respective strength with the results that are clear to all.

This being the scenario, the task undertaken by Mr. Chandra Shekhar is daunting, indeed.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] Hyderabad, July 13 (UNI).

The external affairs minister, Mr. P. V. Narsimha Rao, today assured the members of consultative committee of Parliament attached to his ministry that India was fully aware and conscious of the implications of the induction of sophisticated arms into Pakistan.

He said that the government was not complacent about the negative development in the security environment around India.

Summing up India's approach to Indo-Pakistani relations, Mr. Narsimha Rao told the committee that they would continue the efforts to evolve normal and good relations with Islamabad while remaining vigilant about the dangers of arms race in the region.

He explained that the two elements--vigilance and normalisation of relations--were not mutually exclusive.

Talks with Huang

Mr. Rao also informed the members about the recent discussions he had with the Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Huang Hua, pointing out that improvement in ties "related in significant manner to the border question."

Mr. Rao drew the attention of the members to the fact that Mr. Huang, during his talks with him (Mr. Rao) and the Prime Minister had accepted that the border question should be attended to at an early date.

He also touched upon the situation in Afghanistan and pointed out that the need for political solution to the problem as emphasised by the Prime Minister was finding increasing acknowledgement by many nations.

Briefing newsmen, a spokesman of the external affairs ministry said that there was broad agreement among the members of the committee that the diplomatic initiative taken by Mr. Narasimha Rao under the guidance of the Prime Minister was timely and pragmatic.

A number of MPs felt that developments in Pakistan and India's relations with that country should be assessed in a global perspective in the light of increasing great-power confrontation in India's neighbourhood and the Asian region.

Some members stressed the importance of our diplomatic efforts being accompanied by steps for defence preparedness in the context of critical security environment around the country.

Some members pointed out that India faced negative security environment, induction of sophisticated arms in our neighbourhood and even the possibility of nuclear arms race in the region. They felt that these factors should be kept in mind in dealing with Pakistan and China.

Mr. Rao observed that the government was aware of these factors.

The Prime Minister's as well as his discussions with leaders of various countries had generated a greater awareness of the great power confrontation and militarisation in Asia and the Indian Ocean region, Mr. Rao said.

As for relations with China, members noted with satisfaction the manner in which discussions were conducted with Mr. Huang Hua. Some MPs were of the view that developing friendly relations should be a gradual process. Others pointed out that India's relations would necessarily evolve by global developments in terms of China's relations with others as well as India's tangible interests.

CSO: 4220/7286



## DELHI TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF EDUCATION POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Jul 81 pp 1, 7

[Article by J. D. Singh]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 12.

**T**HE Centre has firmly rejected the demand for transferring education back to the state list.

Although originally a state subject, education was put in the concurrent list under the 42nd constitutional amendment passed during the emergency, on the ground that greater co-ordination between the Centre and the states and between the states themselves was necessary in such a key sector.

Ever since then, some of the state governments have been urging the Centre to restore education to the state list. The non-Congress (I) governments in West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been vociferous in making such a demand.

It is argued by them that the change effected more than four years ago has brought no positive result. Even after it has been put in the concurrent list, education remains the responsibility of the states financially, legally and constitutionally.

The Centre has rejected these arguments and believes that the interests of education are better served by placing the subject in the concurrent list.

The concurrent status of education, it is said, is a matter of national interest. The problems of educational development are complex and differences in attitudes towards administering educational programmes persist in the state governments.

**CENTRE'S CONCERN**

A situation may thus arise for Central legislation to satisfy a national need or resolve a situation of national concern, and this can be better done if education is in the concurrent list.

The concurrent status of education can, therefore, be a useful instrument in such important matters as standards

or in special situations of substantive departures from national policy.

The Centre points out that national consensus has been achieved in several significant areas in education. The restructuring of educational system on the 10 + 2 + 3 pattern has been accepted by most of the states. Consensus has been arrived at in respect of the curriculum for ten years' schooling, with work experience, teaching of science and mathematics and physical education as compulsory subjects.

However, the Centre has expressed concern over drastic departures made by some of the state governments from the accepted national policy.

A few of the state governments, it is alleged, have tampered with curricula to introduce communal and ideological prejudice into the textbooks.

The reasons for bringing education to the concurrent list were explained by the then education minister before the 42nd amendment was approved.

In spite of the government's policy to restrict expansion of institutions of higher education, it was pointed out, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and U.P. had indiscriminately opened new universities in the past few years.

Some state governments had diverted allocations made for elementary education to higher education with the result that the goal of universal enrolment up to the age of 14 years, as stipulated in the constitution, had not been achieved.

Although the Central advisory board of education had taken a decision to make vocationalisation a part of the new 10 + 2 + 3 pattern, almost all the states were dragging their feet in this regard.

Similarly, technical education had

been neglected and engineering colleges and polytechnics set up with Central assistance had not been provided with funds by the states to renovate and modernise their equipment.

Some of the state governments had even introduced amendments to the university legislation without consulting the Central government or the University Grants Commission.

Making a vigorous plea for the 42nd amendment, the then education minister had argued that the Central government should play a more positive role in the field of education.

#### Janata's Bid

After the adoption of the amendment, education was placed in the concurrent list with effect from January 3, 1977.

The Janata government, which came to power two months later, decided to restore education to the state list vide the 45th constitutional amendment. This was passed by the Lok Sabha where the ruling party had a majority but was rejected by the Rajya Sabha. As such, education continued to be in the concurrent list.

It is recalled that education was a Central responsibility up to 1919 when it was declared a provincial and transferred subject, with the Centre exercising a very limited control.

After independence, the constitution earmarked education as a state subject. However, educational policies and programmes became a partnership between the Centre and the states. The central advisory board of education emerged as a supreme organisation for such collaboration.

#### Regulation

The Centre's thinking is that education is vitally important to the country's development programme. Since the supply of educated and trained manpower is a sine quo non of development, regulation and employment should be through a statutory body that could look to the interests of both the Centre and the states.

Besides co-ordinated planning of educational policies and programmes, there is a need for regulation in the area of text-books and reference books for colleges and schools. At present, there is a proliferation of sub-standard textbooks.

There is a similar need for a certain uniformity in the degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded by the 31 boards of secondary education, hundred-odd universities and a host of unrecognised institutions. The creation of an all-India education service also needs urgent attention.

All these functions, the Centre argues, can be better performed if education is in the concurrent list.

CSO: 4220/7279

## CONGRESS-I REPORTEDLY PRESSURES OPPOSITION GOVERNMENTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Jul 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, July 12.

The ruling party at the Centre is following a two-pronged policy of utilising every possible opportunity to step up political pressures on the non-Congress (I) Ministries in some of the States, while at the governmental level it continues to maintain a reasonable working relationship with them.

The Centre as such is not engaging in any toppling game to dislodge them from office, but the ruling party is trying to keep the Democles sword hanging over the heads of the Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, whether it is to keep them on tenterhooks as a form of psychological warfare or forewarn them that their time was running out in the changed political atmosphere.

As Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has no doubt, disapproved of the recent utterances of the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Yogendra Makwana, but she is not taking much notice of the complaints of the Tamil Nadu and Kerala Chief Ministers that he had transgressed his responsibilities as a Central Minister in publicly criticising the two State Governments.

Home Ministry's view sought: Though the Central agencies concerned have kept her fully informed of what exactly Mr. Makwana had said about the conversion of some Harijans to Islam in Tamil Nadu and the increasing incidence of politically motivated crimes in Kerala, the Prime Minister has sought the Home Ministry's comments on Mr. M. G. Ramachandran's protest letter before sending a routine reply to him. At her press conference on Friday, she had some harsh things to say about the record of the Kerala Government.

But what is really significant in this context is that, despite her preoccupation with the affairs of her own party Governments in the Northern States, Mrs. Gandhi has started taking what some of her confidants describe as a critical look at the performance of both Congress(I) and non-Congress (I) Ministries in the south of Vindhya States.

It means that she is no less concerned about events in Maharashtra and Karnataka than in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, no matter how she looks at them.

Though in comparison Andhra Pradesh has been faring better in the sense that it has not been coming in for any adverse notice, it remains a problem State which can be rocked again by intra-party squabbles or regional tensions.

To this extent the present Anjiah Government is more happily placed since she is not going to countenance any demand for a change of leadership before the next elections in the State in early 1983.

The general feeling in political circles in Delhi is that, no matter what restraint Mrs. Gandhi displays as Prime Minister, the very logic of the growing confrontation at the party level with the communists in Kerala and West Bengal will sooner or later lead to a showdown.

The Centre has been displaying considerable restraint in dealing with Sheikh Abdullah despite his provocative pronouncements, because of Mrs. Gandhi's anxiety to avoid wider repercussions.

The attitude of the Central leadership towards the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu has not yet crystallised into one of open hostility or a desire for accommodation. There has been no response from Mrs. Gandhi's side to Mr. M. G. Ramachandran's overtures, although it has been made known that the Congress (I) does not consider itself irrevocably committed to continue its present links with the DMK beyond a point.

The field is thus wide open still for the two Tamil Nadu stalwarts, Mr. Ramachandran and Mr. M. Karunanidhi for carrying on their battle of wits to convince Mrs. Gandhi on which side her balance of convenience would lie during the next trial of strength in this State.

The saddest part of it all is that the Congress (I) in Tamil Nadu is in no position at all to tilt the scales either way by taking advantage of this uneasy situation.

**Dissidence:** The decision to dispense with Mr. Jagannath Pahadia in Rajasthan has set the tone for similar changes at least in some if not all the Northern States. The Central leadership can delay the process by simply prolonging the suspense, but it might be complicating matters further by sharpening the dissidence.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for Mrs. Gandhi to keep the tottering Chief Ministers going in States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar without holding out some hope of changes before long to placate the dissidents as was done in Rajasthan.

**Rajiv's role:** An interesting feature of these developments in the States is that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is being cast in the role of an arbiter with all and sundry running to him for advice.

There are reports that Mrs. Gandhi herself is unhappy over the wily attempts of her Congress (I) colleagues who under the guise of seeking her son's guidance by posing the alternatives open to the party in each of these States in the present situation are indirectly trying to narrow down his preferences to their own choices.

And the attempt to invest these decisions with the halo of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's approval is seen as no more than a clever ploy by the party operators to exploit his name for subserving their own local interests.

It remains to be seen whether she will take steps to stop this exploitation of his name or allow this game to go on under the mistaken impression that there is no harm in letting him learn through trial and error the art of distinguishing between well-meaning and motivated advice.

CSO: 4220/7283



CONGRESS-U WORKING COMMITTEE MEETS IN BANGALORE

Meeting Discussions, Resolutions

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Bangalore, July 12.

The Congress (U) working committee, at its meeting here today, rejected the question of merger with the Congress (I).

"There is no question of merger", the party's general secretary, Mr. Banka Behari Das told newsmen.

The working committee decided to remove Mr. Shyamdhara Mishra, the controversial president of the Uttar Pradesh unit of the party, from all party posts.

Mr. Mishra's continuance in office had given a handle to the younger elements in the working committee to mount an attack on the party president, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs. Mr. Urs was allegedly charged with "mishandling" the situation in U.P.

With the action being proposed against Mr. Mishra, the anti-Urs lobby seemed to have reconciled to the continuance of the party president for some time.

However, it was understood that the party presidential election is being advanced to October, against the earlier decision to hold it in November. It was not known whether Mr. Urs would offer himself for re-election at that time. Another candidate in the run is said to be Mr. Sharad Pawar, former chief minister of Maharashtra.

Mr. Pawar was reported to have told his colleagues that the issue of the next party president should be settled amicably, it being a "family matter."

Mr. Pawar attended the working committee as a special invitee. A significant absentee from the meeting was Mr. Jagjivan Ram whose name had also been mentioned for the party presidentship.

The committee reviewed the situation after Mr. Y. B. Chavan left the Congress (U). Mr. Pawar said that although Mr. Chavan's exit had effected certain sections of the party in Maharashtra, the Congress (U) was intact in a majority of the districts.

In a resolution on electoral reforms, the committee termed misuse of the official machinery for "rigging" capturing of electoral booths and letting loose large-scale violence as a corrupt practice. The resolution will be released officially tomorrow.

The resolution touches on defections and other "distortions" in the parliamentary system. A committee of the party will be set up to finalise specific amendments to the electoral law.

Mr. Urs will participate in the all-party meeting convened by the Janata Party chief, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, in Delhi on July 17 on electoral reforms.

The working committee discussed the possibility of electoral understanding with like-minded parties. However, the parties with which the Congress (U) could identify itself at the national level were not spelt out.

The meeting opened with general remarks by Mr. Urs who felt that the hike in petroleum products announced yesterday by the government would accentuate the price spiral.

The economic scene was drifting and had become chaotic. Despite good crops, sugar and wheat were being imported. This was clearly a failure of the government on the economic front, Mr. Urs said.

#### Karnataka Government Scored

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Bangalore, July 12: The Congress (U) working committee today called on all political parties to carry on a relentless struggle against the "incompetent, immoral and undeserving" Congress (I) government in Karnataka, headed by Mr. R. Gundu Rao.

The working committee took serious note of the "alarming situation" in Karnataka. It charged the state government with employing brute force. There was gross abuse of power by the "ruling clique," including ministers and office-bearers of the Congress (I) and its parliamentary wing. Authority was being exploited for the advantage of individual members of the ruling party, it was alleged.

The committee referred to the alleged wrongful confinement of a woman of Bhadravathi, at the residence of the planning and wakfs minister, Mr. C. M. Ibrahim, and the unprecedented liquor tragedy in which more 300 persons lost their lives.

CSO: 4220/7279

FURTHER REPORT ON CONGRESS-U COMMITTEE SESSION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] Bangalore, July 13.

The Congress(U) will keep its identity, with the issue of any merger between it and the Congress(I) now a remote possibility.

A discussion camp, to be attended by party leaders, will be held for three days from September 18 in Hyderabad, where the Congress (U) may identify other parties with which it may have a tie-up for co-ordinated political action.

Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, party president, explained here today that the state units of the Congress (U) would have a certain amount of freedom to develop co-ordination with other parties, excluding the Congress (I), depending on local conditions. This would apply to West Bengal and Kerala also.

Mr. Urs welcomed the increase in the bank rate and compulsory deposit at high levels, but thought that the price hike in petroleum products would add to inflation. There was no justification to import wheat and sugar when the internal production exceeded consumption level. The wheat import showed that the procurement programme had failed. Whenever edible oil was imported, it went into black market.

On the liquor tragedy in Karnataka, Mr. Urs wanted to know why the National Security Act was not being applied to apprehend the "sultans and khans" involved in illicit liquor trade. Efficient police officers who sought to take action against anti-social elements were transferred.

There were cases of consumption of illicit liquor and deaths even while he was chief minister, Mr. Urs conceded, but "never on this scale." Laxity on the part of the official machinery coupled with the steep rise in the price of illicit liquor forced people to drink it, he observed.

Meanwhile, the Congress (U) working committee meeting has removed Mr. Shyam Dhar Mishra, who is involved in a criminal case, from the party post of the president of Uttar Pradesh Congress (U) committee, Mr. Urs announced.

Mr. Mishra's presidentship of UPCC (U) was controversial in the committee and his dismissal was considered a triumph for the younger elements in their battle to oust older elements from various party posts.

Mr. Urs, whose ouster was also demanded by the younger elements, would, however, continue as the party chief on a temporary basis.

Mr. Mishra has been replaced by Mr. Mohammed Butt as the UPCC (U) chief on a temporary basis.

The organisational elections held from the primary to the PCC (U) levels have been declared null and void. Mr. D. K. Borooah will go into complaints about the elections and submit a report to the working committee.

CSO: 4220/7286

CONGRESS-U COMMITTEE PROPOSES FAIR ELECTION PROGRAM

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Bangalore, July 13.

The Congress(U) Working Committee has proposed a four-point programme to ensure free and fair elections.

This includes a system of compulsory voting on the basis of identity cards with photographs of electors, state funding of elections, formulation and adoption of a model anti-defection law and a drastic change in the election law for effective prevention of corrupt practices, undue influence, bribery, violence, allurement and intimidation by the state machinery.

Releasing the working committee's resolution, the party president, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, said here today that "money power has assumed diabolical proportions and is playing havoc."

It was noted that the Santhanam Committee recommendations had been deliberately kept in the cold storage. Immediate legislative measures were urged to minimise corruption in the political system and ensure the accountability of politicians to the public by requiring them to keep to a standard of conduct. There must be a constant war on corruption, it was felt.

The working committee viewed with anxious concern widespread violence, large-scale booth capturing, general rigging and blatant misuse of power in favour of Congress(I) candidates in the recent by-elections. This unprecedented interference by the ruling party with the election process, coupled with the lack of opposition unity, had been responsible for what was being paraded as a landslide victory for the ruling party.

The order of the chief election commissioner for a re-poll in Garhwal had, in a limited way, exposed the ruling party's loud claim to hold free and fair elections, the working committee said. It also constituted a clear and complete indictment of the style and ways of functioning of the ruling party and its governments in the Centre and the states.

The threat posed by the Congress(I) to the system of parliamentary democracy was clear and the people had to meet it, the working committee resolved.



On electoral reforms, the working committee found itself in line with the thinking of other opposition parties. (Mr. Urs will participate in the all-party meeting on electoral reforms convened by Mr. Chandrasekhar, Janata party chief, in Delhi on July 17).

CSO: 4220/7286

## JANA SANGH LEADER SCORES RESERVATION POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Jul 81 p 20

[Text] Ahmedabad, July 11: Prof. Balraj Madhok, president of the revived Bharatiya Jana Sangh, yesterday strongly opposed the reservation system and the roster policy as these were "anti-national and anti-democratic" and were dividing society and the country.

He charged the Congress party of following this inheritance from the British days as it, and its leaders, like Jawaharlal Nehru, were scared of nationalism. Other parties adopted these policies to placate the backward classes and win their support during elections.

Addressing a convention organised here by the unreserved employees confederation, Prof. Madhok said even the great leader and the father of the constitution, Dr. Babsaheb Ambedkar, was of the opinion that the reservation policy was retrograde and would put the backward countries into a perpetual state of slavery.

While Prof. Madhok wanted the immediate scrapping of the roster system, he said that the reservation system had to be removed gradually. The reservation policy had not helped in bringing the backward classes on par with others.

The Jana Sangh leader said that it was the responsibility of the Caste Hindus to help the uplift of the backward classes, who had been oppressed for centuries. A national policy on reservation had to be drafted, fixing the economic criteria for classifying the backwardness of the people and giving scholarships, freeships and other benefits to them. He alleged the Islamic countries had set up a fund of Rs. 3,000 crores for making India an Islamic country through the conversion of Harijans to Islam. To stop this, steps should be taken for the uplift of the Harijan and other backward classes and declare India a Hindu state.

CSO: 4220/7280

CONVICTED PAKISTANI SPY, ACCOMPLICES SENTENCED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jul 81 p 4

[Text] New Delhi, July 13 (UNI): A Pakistani national was today awarded 12 years' rigorous imprisonment on a charge of spying.

Eight other accomplices of Mohammad Saddiq alias Saddiqui were awarded three years' rigorous imprisonment by the additional sessions judge, Mr. M. K. Chawla.

In his order awarding the punishment to the accused persons, the court order said, "Information (sought to be leaked) in the case related to air fields, radar stations and other defence installations in India, which the accused persons were to barter with a neighbouring country, being lured by a few coins."

"Any person found guilty of such offences has always been dealt with in an exemplary manner by law courts all over the globe. The quantum of sentence for such offences has to be such as may be deterrent, so that other like-minded persons may not go astray," the judge said.

In his 174-page judgment, Mr. Chawla observed that "eternal vigilance is the price a nation has to pay for its freedom, and if any one plays with the freedom of a nation, no punishment is too high for such a person."

The spy ring was busted by the counter-espionage branch of Delhi police on October 8, 1976, with the arrest of one Salahuddin in Delhi.

The Pakistani national was arrested on November 9, 1976, and was in judicial custody since then. The other conspirators were arrested subsequently following his interrogation.

CSO: 4220/7296

INDIA

#### INDIA TO REHABILITATE TIBETAN REFUGEES IN BHUTAN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Jul 81 p 21

[Text] Srinagar, July 12 (UNI): India has agreed to rehabilitate 1500 Tibetan refugees who are presently settled in Bhutan, according to the Union deputy minister for supplies and rehabilitation, Mr. P. K. Thungon.

Speaking in an interview to UNI and AIR Mr. Thungon said that Mrs. Indira Gandhi had decided to rehabilitate them in India on "humanitarian grounds".

Most of the Tibetans were Buddhists, Mr. Thungon, a former Arunachal chief minister said.

He said about 748 Tibetans had already left Bhutan to be rehabilitated in India.

Mr. Thungon, who is here in connection with the two-day national council meeting of the All-India Youth Congress (I), disclosed that the Centre wanted to rehabilitate the Tibetans in Jammu and Kashmir.

He had discussions with the chief minister, Sheikh Abdullah, and the Jammu and Kashmir planning and finance minister, Mr. D. D. Thakur, he said.

In reply to a question, Mr. Thungon said the West Pakistan refugees could not be uprooted again and expressed the hope that an amicable solution to their problem would be sorted out soon.

Actually their problem was not that of rehabilitation, he said. The problem was with regard to their rights of citizenship. There were some constitutional problems, he added. He wanted their case to be tackled sympathetically.

CSO: 4220/7280

## GROWING DISCONTENT IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Jul 81 p 10

[Text]

SRINAGAR, July 12.—Jammu and Kashmir, it seems from official as well as unofficial indications available here, is heading for President's rule in the near future.

President's rule might be imposed not only because of continued confrontation between the Centre and the ruling National Conference Government in the State but due to the growing discontent among the people in all the three regions of the Kashmir Valley, Jammu and the Leh border. They have complained to the Prime Minister and the State Governor, Mr B. K. Nehru, about the State Government's "failure to redress their economic and political grievances."

While the agitation in the Shopian area of the Kashmir Valley for a separate hill district has reached its peak, similar agitations have begun making an impact in the Kishtwar and Bhandarwah areas of the Jammu region.

For the past one-and-a-half months people of Kishtwar and Bhandarwah have been organizing hunger-strikes and bandhs and there have been a number of clashes with the police, as in the

Kashmir Valley's Shopian area where almost all the members of the Opposition Parties' Action Committee have been detained under the Public Safety Act.

In Leh district there have been a number of clashes recently. The people there charge the Government with being unfair in the allotment of funds for the development of the area.

The nomadic Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in Ladakh have been demanding for the past three years that they be given the status of Scheduled Tribes. They blame the State Government for not having promoted their case.

In several areas of Jammu and Kashmir people have begun to demand separate districts, tehsils and sub-tehsils. Though these agitations do not appear to be aimed at bringing about the disintegration of the State, they have led to a political crisis and instability.

Such dissatisfaction with Sheikh Abdullah's Government has resulted from the disregard for popular feelings shown two years ago when certain new districts and tehsils were carved out.

CSO: 4220/7281



## DESAI HOLDS 13 JUL PRESS CONFERENCE IN BHOPAL

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jul 81 p 7

[Text]

BHOPAL, July 13

The former Prime Minister Mr. Morarji Desai today said the Opposition parties should cooperate on certain issues among themselves and also with the Government, "but I do not believe in a coalition with any party."

Speaking at a press conference here, he said he was not aware of the Janata Party President, Mr. Chandra Shekhar's invitation to other Opposition parties for a dialogue on the threat to democracy because of "rigging" in elections.

Mr. Desai charged the Prime Minister with creating a "war psychosis" to intimidate the people and cover her failures on all fronts.

The huge purchase of arms by Pakistan was in retaliation to India's

own purchases from the Soviet Union, France and the Jaguar deal with Britain. "Every country has the right to buy arms for its defence."

In this context, Mr. Desai said the Soviet President Mr. Leonid Brezhnev's visit to India last year was primarily aimed at bolstering India's war-preparedness.

Asked to comment on the reported massing of troops on the borders by Pakistan, Mr. Desai countered "Has India not massed troops on the Rajasthan border?"

Mr. Desai alleged that Mrs. Gandhi was collecting funds from the "business lobby" unmindful of the effect it had on the price rise. He suspected that wheat and sugar were being smuggled

out, whereby it had become necessary to import these commodities.

The wheat supplied by the United States to other countries was adulterated because of the disinfectants used for preservation, he said, adding that this was also borne out by a U.S. study.

Asked if India was making "proxy" purchases of wheat for the Soviet Union, the Janata Party leader said "It could be," but, he said, he did not wish to speculate — UNI

PTI reports:

"I don't want to get into your net", he retorted when a reporter asked him about Mrs. Gandhi's Swiss account, into which his Government had ordered an enquiry.

CSO: 4220/7289

## LAW MINISTER HOLDS 13 JUL PRESS CONFERENCE

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jul 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 13.

The Union Law Minister, Mr. Shiv Shankar, feels there will be no scope for confrontation between the Executive and the Judiciary if every organ confines itself to the domain assigned to it under the Constitution.

Noticeably reluctant to be drawn into a discussion on the recent controversy arising from strains between the two wings, he maintained that so far as the present Government was concerned, it had not exceeded its jurisdiction.

Mr. Shiv Shankar said he had avoided extravagant expressions because, in their interpretation, they could be given diverse meanings.

He, however, did not accept the view of those who would regard the Judiciary independent only if it gave verdicts against the Government. In his opinion the concept of independence involved interpretation of the provisions of laws in the context of the Constitution and the Constitution's philosophy.

At his press conference today, Mr. Shiv Shankar would not take questions relating to transfer of Chief Justices or his letter to the Chief Ministers, on securing the consent of Additional Judges of High Courts to transfers outside their States because these matters were sub judice. He, however, said that some 35 additional judges had responded to the query.

Recently, the Congress (I) took exception to some of the statements of the Chief Justice of India which it regarded as of political nature.

Through a statement by the subcommittee of Congress (I) MPs, the party saw no justification for the Chief Justice's apprehensions about the Government's attitude to the Judiciary.

While affirming its faith in the integrity and independence of the Judiciary, the statement referred to the ruling party's commitment to socio-economic justice and its concern over overcrowding the court's dockets, the slow-motion justice, and some trends in the judicial thinking which run counter to the basic democratic aspirations of the people and national imperatives.

The measures proposed by the Government, it said, were intended to make the Judiciary an effective instrument of social change and could not be termed an onslaught on the Judiciary.

In their criticism of the Judiciary, they said, they were prompted by a desire to accord to its its legitimate place.

**Soviet system commended:** Mr. Shiv Shankar, who returned today after an 11-day visit to the Soviet Union, narrated the striking features of the legal system there, particularly the practice of electing judges, bar on challenge to laws in courts and the office of the Procurator-General which could take note of wrongful action by the highest in the land.

Mr. Shiv Shankar had gone there at the invitation of the Soviet Minister for Justice, Mr. Terebilov, under the cultural exchange programme of the two countries and utilised the trip for a study of judicial practices. He was accompanied by two MPs, Mr. H. K. L. Bhagat and Mr. Janardhan Pujari.

The institution of Procurator-General with its branches all over the Republic, the Law Minister told his press conference, was unique, for it functioned as the watchdog of the entire administration and did not exclude from its purview even the Prime Minister.

Complaints could be filed before it by any citizen or officials, and the cases which were investigated by police were sent to it for decisions on whether and in what form prosecutions were to be launched.

**Study suggested:** The working of this organisation, which was independent, required an in-depth study, Mr. Shiv Shankar said. The fact the Procurator-General had the status of a Minister and a member of the 60-member Supreme Soviet, spoke of his importance in the Soviet system.

Since the features of the Soviet system mentioned by Mr. Shiv Shankar related to some of the subjects which had evoked bitter controversy in India, he was asked whether his pointed reference to them or his plea for an exhaustive study implied that he would like these practices to be considered for adoption here.

This, the Law Minister said, was not his intention for he merely wanted to pinpoint some practices which were different from ours. The in-depth study he had in mind, could be in the form of collection of relevant material, examination by researchers or the law commission.

**Legislative supremacy:** Legislative supremacy (no law passed by legislature could be challenged in a court of law) he said, was based on the premise that since it was the responsibility of the people's representatives to devise ways for the betterment of the lot of the people, their decisions should be beyond challenge.

If they made a mistake they would be punished by the people after the five-year term but the courts there could not strike down their decisions, he said.

Judges at all levels, district, regional or the Supreme Court, were elected by workers' communes, enterprises and other societies because, as Mr. Shiv Shankar

was told the idea was to keep them exposed to the public and to enable it to judge them on their performance and throw them out if necessary, after the completion of their terms.

Under the cultural exchange programme, this was the first visit by an Indian Law Minister after 1973, although dignitaries from the Soviet side had been here.

This exchange was considered helpful in promoting understanding of the legal systems, followed by the two countries.

CSO: 4220/7289

# PLA AVENGES ARREST OF SINGH, KILLING OF LEADERS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Imphal, July 12.--People's Liberation Army commandos this morning killed two jawans in an ambush on an Army column at Bishmunaha after blasting the Irrinbang bridge in Imphal east circle last night, reports UNI.

Several jawans were injured in the ambush, while the bridge was closed to traffic after the bomb explosion on it, police sources here said.

The PLA struck to avenge the killing of seven of its leaders on Monday by troops and the arrest of its top leader, Mr Bisheswar Singh.

The sources said about 20 PLA members came in a hijacked vehicle and one of them threw a hand grenade at the Army column. Two jawans were killed and several others injured in the explosion.

After attacking the Army column, the PLA commandos drove away towards the north.

The sources said the Irrinbang bridge on the Imphal-Nairipok Road, about 30 km from here, was partially damaged by the blasting of a time bomb. Police recovered two unexploded bombs planted under the bridge. The Army started combing operations in the area immediately after the incident.

The sources said the immediate successor to Mr Bisheswar Singh was not known, but either Mr Kuniabihari Singh or Mr Temba Singh might have taken command of the six or seven remaining "divisions" of the PLA.

Meanwhile hundreds of youths, including girls, in white mourning dress, this morning brought out a procession in Imphal carrying the photographs of the seven PLA leaders killed by the Army on Monday at Techam village. The photographs were placed in a red-draped palanquin decorated with flowers.

The procession which started from Singhjamel areas proceeded along National Highway 39 leading towards the house of the Chief Minister, Mr Rishang Keishing, and ended near the gate of the first battalion of the Manipur Rifles as the security forces did not allow them to proceed further.

A Manipur Government Press Note issued here last evening said that a five-pointed star, symbol of the outlawed PLA, was found hanging in the session court compound yesterday morning.



The Press Note said that five armed men raided a house in Tendonyang village and demanded money from the house owner at gunpoint. One of the raiders was napped by the villagers. A pistol and six rounds of ammunition were recovered from him.

The Press Note said two editors for local periodicals ZORANTHAR and CHANTU published in tribal dialect from Churachandpur, Headquarters of Manipur south district, have been arrested for publishing articles undermining the security of the State.

The papers published an appeal by one Mr Lalramalliana, "an Adjutant-General of the Mizo National Army", to the PLA and PREPAK not to obstruct each other as all of them were fighting for freedom, the Press Note added.

Meanwhile, according to police sources, the body of a school teacher was recovered by villagers of Kalapahar from a ditch when a dog was seen trying to pull it out.

CSO: 4220/7281

## ADDITIONAL ENERGY COMMISSION STUDY REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Jul 81 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 12

If appropriate measures are initiated, it is possible to meet about 45 per cent to 49 per cent of the total energy demand by 2000 A.D. through non-commercial sources and new and renewable sources of energy, according to the Commission for Additional Sources of Energy (CASE).

Non-commercial sources include firewood, animal dung and farm wastes. The new and renewable sources include solar bio-conversion, wind, hydro, animal draught, geothermal and tidal energy.

At present 40 per cent of the energy requirements are met by non-commercial sources and the rest through commercial sources like coal, oil and electricity. A study by the CASE shows that the contribution of non-commercial sources will decline to less than 20 per cent of total energy demand by 2000 A.D. and this should be made up at least partly by renewable sources.

Apart from this, the study points out that renewable sources can replace the entire diesel oil requirements for water pumping and rural industries, 50 per cent of petroleum products needed for household and transport sectors, besides 25 per cent of fuel oil and 20 per cent of coal needed for low and temperature heat. If steps are taken to achieve these replacement targets, then 45 per cent to 49 per cent of total energy demand by 2000 A.D. can be met from non-commercial and new and renewable sources of energy.

The CASE has mentioned a range of 45 per cent to 49 per cent in order to correspond with two figures of demand — one called Reference Level Forecast (RLF) and the other Optimum Level Forecast (OLF). The RLF represents the demand that will arise if no deliberate measures are taken to manage the supply and demand for energy, while OLF relates to the demand that will materialise if the steps recommended by the working group on energy to manage supply and demand are adopted.

The energy demand under RLF is 308 million tonnes of coal, 74.2 million tonnes of oil, 471 trillion watt-hour of electricity. The corresponding OLF figures are 268 million tonnes of coal, 54.8 million tonnes of oil and 395 twh of electricity. The expectation is that 45 per cent of the demand under RLF or 49 per cent of the demand under OLF can be met through non-commercial and new and renewable sources of energy.

In the "national paper" prepared for the forthcoming U.N. conference on new and renewable sources of energy, the CASE has listed the sectors in which new and renewable sources can replace present commercial sources. In the household sector, biogas/solar cooker can replace coal/kerosene/LPG for cooking, biogas/solar photovoltaic systems can replace electricity/kerosene for lighting and biogas/solar water heating systems can replace coal/kerosene/electricity for water heating.

In the irrigation and water supply sector, solar photovoltaic pump/windmill/biogas or alcohol engine can replace diesel oil/electricity for pumping. In the agriculture sector, engines based on biogas, alcohol, etc. can replace diesel for ploughing, solar energy can replace coal for drying, and solar/alcohol refrigeration systems can replace electricity for cold storage. In the industry sector, biogas/solar heating systems can replace coal for heat for rural industries like potteries, brick making, smithy, etc. Biogas/alcohol engine/windmill can replace electricity/diesel oil for milling, grinding, threshing in small scale industries, and solar water and air heating systems can replace coal/oil/electricity in water and air heating, low pressure steam applications.

The paper points out that the actual contribution made by renewable sources will depend upon several factors among which are: the availability and the price of conventional fuels, desire of the country to reduce dependence on external sources to meet its energy needs, development of technology for effective and economic utilisation of new and renewable sources, infrastructure for production, distribution, utilisation and maintenance of systems based on new and renewable sources, limitations such as land, animal population, climatic conditions, etc. and awareness among the people of the importance of new energy sources and adjustment of lifestyles to use these new sources.

## DEFENSE, SMALL INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES CONFER

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Jul 81 p 12

[Text] Madras, July 12

Officials of the Defence Ministry held talks with entrepreneurs in the small scale sector in the Southern States on the development of new sources for the production of components needed by the Armed Forces.

The talks in the form of a buyer-seller meet came at the end of a three-day exhibition of items and their blueprints, needed by the Defence Ministry, at the premises of the Small Industry Service Institute (SISI), at Guindy on Friday.

The Defence Ministry found the response encouraging though the extent to which it could depend on the small scale sector is still to be assessed.

Problems: The Ministry runs into problems when it comes to the maintenance of imported equipment using indigenous spares and components.

According to senior technical officers the production of 14,000 items can be indigenised. There are sample rooms in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras where the items are displayed.

The availability of samples at the Sample Room at Ambattur has not helped a bit to enthuse new entrepreneurs to take to the manufacture of defence items.

The special display, followed by the buyer-seller talks, was organised to encourage the small sector to manufacture spares for defence equipment.

Some 125 potential small industrialists visited the exhibition during the three days and got interested in 183 items.

Requests have been received for blueprints from many industrialists. This information was given by Major J S Kapoor, Officer Commanding, DGI Sample Room, Ambattur.

Difficulties that militate against the easy acceptance of quotations from the small industry by the Defence were recounted by some including the Director of the SISI, Mr C V Kuppuswamy.

CSO: 4220/7283

## UTTAR PRADESH REPORTED EXPECTING RECORD HARVEST

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jul 81 p 5

[Article by K. Vikram Rao]

[Text]

**L**UCKNOW: A bountiful monsoon and elaborate crop planning have raised hopes of a record kharif harvest in U.P. this season.

Despite an initial setback when sowing operations were delayed due to a severe power shortage that affected tubewell operations, the agricultural department has set the kharif production target at ten million tonnes. The crop last year yielded 9.1 million tonnes which itself was a record.

The rainfall in eastern and western U.P. so far has been reported to be 17 per cent above normal. Other parts of the state too have so far received sufficient rains. Indications that the Agricultural Prices Commission will recommend a higher support price and increased farm inputs have enthused the cultivators to put in extra effort to achieve the ambitious target.

The state agricultural production commissioner, Mr. Shamshad Ahmed, has pinned his hopes for a record output on the favourable monsoon conditions and the increased inputs being made available to the farmers. Heavy floods last year damaged vast areas. Heavy rains last year also contributed to the damage in Gorakhpur, Faizabad and Varanasi divisions where drainage is poor and equipment to pump out water from cropped fields is hard to procure. "This year, such damage is not feared," says Mr. Ahmed.

As for inputs, the consumption of chemical fertilisers this season has been 400,000 tonnes compared to 350,000 tonnes last season. The quantum of the fertiliser subsidy to cultivators has also been raised by the Vishwanath Singh ministry which only last month completed its first year in office.

The agricultural production commissioner claims that the newly-launched integrated rural development programme (IRDP) has started showing results. It has eliminated duplication of efforts and conserved and properly utilised resources. Besides, over 100,000 tonnes of quality paddy seeds have been distributed. Healthy seedlings boost production prospects. Pesticides have been supplied free of charge in 12 districts where the crops normally are subjected to heavy damage by pests. In the other districts, pesticides are subsidised.

Not being satisfied with these measures alone, the agriculture department has extended the area under kharif cultivation to five million hectares from 4.8 million hectares last year.

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON NEW RAJASTHAN HEAD GIVEN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Jaipur, July 14.

Mr. Shiv Charan Mathur was sworn in as chief minister of Rajasthan at a brief ceremony at Raj Bhavan here today. He succeeds Mr. Jagannath Pahadia who resigned as the chief minister on Saturday.

Mr. Mathur was unanimously elected leader of the Congress (I) legislature party at its meeting held in the PCC (I) office earlier in the day. Mr. Mathur's name was proposed by Mr. Jagannath Pahadia and seconded by Mr. Paras Ram Maderna.

The meeting was delayed by about 90 minutes as the AICC general secretary, Mr. G. K. Moopanar, and the AICC observer, Mr. Buta Singh, union minister of state for shipping and transport, made last-minute efforts to bring about unanimity in the choice.

## Showdown Averted

The Union minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Mr. Sita Ram Kesri, who arrived here yesterday played a significant role in bringing about a semblance of unity within the faction-ridden Congress (I) legislature party.

Mr. Pahadia and his supporters were bent on a showdown till the last moment. At one stage, it became obvious that the party would leave the choice of the leader to the Congress (I) president, Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

The three central leaders were, however, able to persuade all sections of the party to understand the need for a unanimous choice, minutes before the meeting began.

Mr. Mathur was a minister in Mr. Sukhadia's cabinet. After that he was a minister in all Congress ministries in the state, except in Mr. Pahadia's.

Mr. Mathur belongs to the mineral-rich district of Bhilwara. With his election as the chief minister, the leadership of Rajasthan has gone back to Mewar after a lapse of four years. Earlier, Mr. Mohan Lal Sukhadia was the chief minister from the Mewar region for 17 years. For a brief period of three years, Marwar led the state when Mr. Barkatullah Khan became the chief minister. Mewar again



came into the limelight when Mr. Harideo Joshi succeeded Mr. Khan. After the Congress (I) defeat in the 1977 election, Mewar was again relegated to the second position.

Mr. Mathur was among the five Congress (I) legislators in Rajasthan who stood by Mrs. Indira Gandhi at the time of the first split of the Congress when Mr. V. V. Giri was elected president.

Mr. Mathur's ability as an administrator, loyalty to the party and capacity to carry friends and foes with him have been proved a number of times. Mr. Narender Singh Bhati, a close friend of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has played an important role in Mr. Mathur's election.

#### Able Administrator

Soft-spoken and well-mannered, Mr. Mathur was born at Nadi Kanugo village in Guna district in Madhya Pradesh. After graduating in arts from the Maharana Bhopal College in Udaipur, he took a diploma in labour welfare from Bombay.

He was chairman of the Bhilwara municipal board in 1957-58 and Pramukh of the Bhilwara zilla parishad from 1960 to 1964. He was later elected to the Lok Sabha from the Bhilwara parliamentary constituency.

In 1967 and 1972, he was elected to the Rajasthan legislative assembly from the Mandalgarh constituency of Bhilwara district. He was the minister for education, power, agriculture and planning in the Rajasthan government during these years.

He was re-elected to the Rajasthan legislative assembly from the Mandalgarh constituency in 1980.

He was a member of the Rajasthan Students' Congress Working Committee from 1945 to 1947. He has taken keen interest in social service and education and always championed the cause of the poor and the downtrodden.

CSO: 4220/7294

# REPORT ON SECOND DAY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MEETING

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jul 81 p 9

[Text] Hyderabad, July 14 (PTI).

The Union external affairs minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, told the parliamentary consultative committee attached to his ministry, today that the Tarapur plant would be "kept going" irrespective of any developments in the Indo-U.S. relations.

The committee concluded its two-day session here today. An external affairs ministry spokesman told newsmen at the conclusion of the meeting that today's discussions, centred on Indo-Bangladesh relations, regional co-operation, and India's relations with the U.K. and the U.S.

Mr. Rao detailed to the members of the committee the developments that had taken place in Bangladesh since the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman.

Some members expressed concern over the "hostile reports" emanating from Bangladesh. Some other members also drew the attention of the minister to the influx of Chakma and other tribes from Bangladesh into Tripura and other Indian states and expressed their apprehension in this regard.

Mr. Rao said that the government of India was fully aware of this development and added that in spite of this, India was continuing its efforts to work out solutions and maintain friendly relations with that country.

The external affairs minister also briefed the committee members on the global and regional economic problems and outlined India's stance on these questions.

Referring to the racial disturbances in the U.K. the external affairs minister explained the results of the visit of the Indian high commissioner in Britain as well as the speaker of the Lok Sabha to the disturbed areas of London and other parts of the country.

The members of the committee, according to the spokesman, felt that the cause of these disturbances were not just economic. There were also "deep-rooted social and political causes."

The spokesman said that at the end of the meeting, the committee members expressed support for the foreign policy initiatives taken by the Prime Minister and the external affairs minister.

The external affairs minister is leaving for Moscow tomorrow for what was described as "periodical bilateral discussions" and would return on July 18.

CSO: 4220/7294

INDIA, ROK HOLD TRADE REVIEW TALKS IN SEOUL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jul 81 p 12

[Text] Seoul, July 14 (PTI).

South Korea has impressed upon India the need for balanced trade, declaring: "Korea looks to India for additional imports of cotton, iron ore and manganese."

The two countries also agreed on the need to fight the 'menace of protectionism' in the west and to cooperate in the current multi-fibre agreement (MFA) round in Geneva.

He points of agreement were reached at the end of third official-level Indo-South Korean trade review talks here today.

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, on the first visit to South Korea by an Indian commerce minister, led the Indian team. His counterpart, Mr. Suh Sook Soon, headed the South Korean side.

Before leaving for home, Mr. Mukherjee told the South Korean news agency "Yonhap" that the two countries had agreed to set up joint ventures to explore third-country markets. He offered leather, cement, chemicals and machine tools as prospective areas for joint ventures, saying India was interested in Korean investment in free trade zones.

India and S. Korea agreed to coordinate their strategies to oppose what an Indian official called an "unfair MFA agreement," which expires this year and will be re-negotiated between the developed countries and the developing textile exporting countries this month in Geneva.

With 3 billion dollars textile exports last year and 5.6 billion dollars by 1986, S. Korea, along with Hong Kong and Taiwan--their combined share in the total textile exports of developing countries is around two-thirds is understood to have agreed to co-operate with a Indian draft proposal to be submitted in Geneva.

India invited S. Korea's big manufacturing sector to establish joint ventures in the Santa Cruz free trade zone and Mr. Mukherjee even offered a tax haven to Korean.

Mr. Mukherjee told PTI that Korea could develop electronics in that zone. "There is no limit to equity," he said. "They can have 100 per cent ownership if they can re-export 100 per cent."

S. Korea's state-run Pohang Steel Company is reported to be interested for the mining of iron ore and manganese. The total imports of metallic ores from India last year was to the tune of 40 million dollars and S. Korea is keen on a share.

Mr. Mukherjee made it clear that India was not interested in joint ventures in raw materials, which S. Korean has initiated recently in resource rich U.S. Canada and Australia, on the basis of investment of Korean capital and advanced mining technology, in return for joint sharing of production on a "long-term basis."

After a sluggish one year, Indian exports to S. Korea surged by 107 per cent during the first five months of this year and totalled over 43 million dollars, the S. Korean government announced.

During the same period, Seoul exported to India goods worth about 107 million dollars, an increase of 57 per cent over the corresponding period last year.

S. Korea's shipping industry, which is the second largest in the world after Japan, is keen on setting up a giant shipyard in India. S. Korea's advanced deep-sea fishing technology was also offered joint ventures.

CSO: 4220/7295



## JHARKAND MORCHA REPORTED TO SET UP PARALLEL GOVERNMENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jul 81 p 4

[Text] Ranchi, July 14: Some sort of a parallel government is functioning in some pockets of Santhal Parganas, according to reports received here.

Such an administration has allegedly been set up by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. The Morcha has its own police force, courts and other paraphernalia of a government. A spokesman of the Morcha has, however, denied the existence of a parallel government and claimed that some extremists have been operating in this manner.

Mr. Binode Bihari Mahato, president of the Morcha, and Mr. A. K. Roy Chowdhury, the Morcha's nominee in the recent Giridih assembly byelection, have accused Mr. Shibu Soren and Mr. Suraj Madan of betraying the tribals in collusion with the Congress (I).

Tension prevails in the Santhal Parganas district and in some pockets of Chotanagpur, where the extremists are striving to extend their area of influence. The entire Chaibasa Sadar sub-division is a disturbed zone. The CPM cadres are active in Silli and other adjacent eastern blocks of Ranchi district, where their associates from West Bengal are also operating to consolidate the party's position. This has provoked violence.

Because of dissensions, the Congress (I) is in no position to combat the influence of the leftists. The infighting in the Bihar PCC(I) and the Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas Congress (I) has paralysed the organisation.

CSO: 4220/7295

## RAJIV GANDHI DEFENDS PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jul 81 p 6

[Text] Bombay, July 14 (UNI): Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, MP, says the parliamentary system is a "good and sound system" and though it is quite slow on the economic front, politically it has kept our country strong and united and we need to forge ahead through the thorny, economic pathway with this very system.

In an interview with Mr. R. K. Karanjia, editor of BLITZ, appearing in the weekly's latest issue, Mr. Gandhi said trying a new system would not be very practicable and so it was better to streamline it.

Asked about higher production to solve economic problems, Mr. Gandhi said even if there was such a thing as higher production, however, the supply management had to be well controlled otherwise everything would go haywire.

Mr. Gandhi has strongly advocated that economic controls were needed for deficient economy and must work. "I strongly feel that if we cannot have a control that works, it is better not to have it."

"We should see what works. This will also increase the basic integrity of an Indian. We are getting into a position where we are unable to think straight. Everybody thinks crooked. That also has to be changed," Mr. Gandhi said.

He said the type of controls that were in existence in the country had to be viewed in the context of the fact that we have a low-paid bureaucrat controlling vast sums and he is very susceptible to looking the other way. Somehow, we have to sort this out. You cannot have somebody who is being paid Rs. 300 looking after exports of excise from a factory where the output may be worth Rs. 10 crores.

Asked whether he felt the solution lay in decontrol when the country had a scarcity market, Mr. Gandhi replied that they had to balance it. Whatever you can decontrol without causing problems, you should, he added.

On the party dissidents who often go to the Prime Minister with their load of woes, Mr. Gandhi said these problems must be really settled at the all-India Congress (I) committee secretary level.

CSO: 4220/7295

## WEST BENGAL REPORTED EXPECTING NORMAL CROP

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jul 81 p 7

[Article by Sivadass Banerjee]

[Text] Calcutta: The monsoon, which usually sets in around June 10 in this part of the country, has been erratic and niggardly, though land continues to be moist due to the heavy April-May rains. Between January and May, most parts of West Bengal received two to four times as much rainfall as in any normal year. Kharif sowing has, therefore, remained unaffected despite the current shortfall which, in fact, has proved to be a blessing in disguise.

The heavy rains in May destroyed seed beds in many parts of the state. Thanks to the successful implementation of the community nursery scheme, fresh seeds could be supplied to farmers for resowing. The seed beds are now thriving all over.

In small pockets, transplantation has already started and this operation is expected to be in full swing soon in the rest of the state. Most of the transplantation will take place later this month.

The April-May rainfall has caused the waterlogging of about 8,000 hectares in Midnapore district where sowing is yet to be undertaken. The */boro/* [in italics] summer paddy harvesting has Hoogly and Burdwan districts has also been seriously affected because of the flooding of the fields.

But this untimely heavy rainfall bestowed blessings too on the farmer. It enabled him to grow pre-kharif paddy over a larger area locally known as */aus/* [in italics]--about 60,000 hectares more than the usual 720,000 hectares.

In the case of kharif proper, the total crop area is likely to remain where it was last year--at around four million hectares, of which about 30 per cent will represent the high-yielding variety.

Where this kharif variety is concerned, the optimum coverage that can be envisaged is 60 per cent of the total. But, since 45 per cent of the land to be covered this way has to have the deep-water variety of seeds, which are not available now, the West Bengal government can be said to have achieved just about 50 per cent of this target.

Happily, there is absolutely no problem about the availability of fertilisers. Stocks, as a spokesman describes, are up to the neck. In fact, fertiliser use dropped perceptibly during the /boro/ [in italics] cultivation season. While in all previous years, there had been a steady 20 per cent growth in its use, during the last /boro/ [in italics] season the growth rate fell to 12 per cent, probably because of the increase in prices.

Meteorologists of the agriculture department do not foresee any unusual monsoon season in the months to come. Their view is by and large supported by the up-to-date reports of rainfall. So far, none of the processes associated with the kharif season has been delayed, despite heavy loss of seed beds.

If the expectations come true, there is no reason why it should not be another normal kharif crop this year.

CSO: 4220/7295

## DANGERS TO INDIA FROM BURMESE TRIBAL AREA NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jul 81 p 17

[Article by Maj. T. R. Vedantham (retd)]

[Text]

**A** Reuter report of May 5 1981 said extensive fighting had been going on between Vietnamese and Chinese troops with heavy casualties on both sides. Vietnam Laos and their border areas with the Yunnan province of China had been a disturbed area for some decades. The fact that medium and heavy artillery has been brought into use along with aerial bombardment makes it more than a border skirmish. It needs an examination in depth.

This area lies northeast of Kengtung a province of Burma of the size of three Tamil Nadu districts. Trinelveli Madurai and Ramanad put together. In 1936 it was a feudal State ruled by a Hsawbwa (a prince or chieftain). The capital was Kengtung a sprawling city with beautiful ornate wood houses on hilly terrain with rich and luscious vegetation all around.

In the south-east and west Kengtung has a border with the southern Shan States of Burma. In the northwest and the north it has the Northern Shan States. In the northeast it touches Yunnan a province of China. In the east it has a fairly long border with Laos and in the southeast it is Thailand. Its strategic importance should therefore be obvious.

In the northernmost district of Thailand is the city of Chiang Mai the terminus of the railway from Bangkok. From Chiang Mai runs a good motorable road to the north to Chiang Rai situated close to the border of Kengtung. The road continues to Kengtung. In 1935-36 the Japanese constructed an airfield in Chiang Mai and that

was only six years before they invaded the country.

From Laos there were a number of roads to Kengtung but only one or two were motorable in the days before the second world war. Others were only mule tracks. In the north-east there was at least one trade route into Yunnan up to the river Mekong.

Even though part of Burma communications between Kengtung and the Shan States were poor.

**Strange admixture**

Before the second world war the township of Kengtung and its adjoining areas had a strange admixture of people staying there for different reasons. Exiles in hiding criminals running away from justice wanted offenders evading arrest espionage agents opium smugglers gun runners and adventurers of all sorts crowded into that territory. There was also a small factory a sort of a glorified laboratory with modern sophisticated equipment to manufacture cannabis indica morphine heroin and other opium derivatives.

During the reign of the Satavahanas Rashtrakutas and the Pallavas large numbers of Hindus and Buddhists migrated and settled in the areas now known as Thailand Cambodia Vietnam Laos and lower Burma. There was also a migration westward across Burma into the valley of the Brahmaputra. It was not drought or famine that drove the people to migrate westwards. One of the reasons was the pressure of an excess population the other was the cultural appeal.

Kengtung was the staging camp and the transit camp for these gigantic tribal migrations of the Indo-Chinese races to Burma and India's northeastern regions. It went on for over two to three centuries and after the 14th century began to decline and taper off.

Today Vietnam Laos and Cambodia (now Kampuchea) are zones of Soviet influence. It is alleged that a certain number of Cubans are also there. There is a war going on in that region where Kengtung Laos and Yunnan meet.

**Three routes**

There are three routes into Chinese Yunnan from this region: the Taiping the Shweli and the Kunlong Ferry route. The famous Stillwell road built before the second world war zigzags over the barren mountainous ranges of Yunnan then runs north of the Laos-Vietnam border enters the Shan States north of Kengtung and proceeds north to Ledo and Margharita on the Indian border.

This is a strategic overland communication route from Beijing in China to Dibrugarh and Tinsukia in Assam. This road runs right across the upper triangle of Burma with the Irrawaddy valley to its east and the Chindwin valley to its west. That part of this road that runs through southern Yunnan is barely 160 km north of the border between Yunnan and Laos-Vietnam. In Burma at Kunlong it is about 100 km north of Kengtung. This part of the road has now become vulnerable because of the war that is going on in that area.





Kengtung so strategically placed has no army or air force or armoured divisions for its defence. Yet it enjoys a special privileged position in that all countries surrounding it by an unwritten law have agreed to safeguard its territorial integrity for the simple reason that each of them has a finger in the pie for good or for bad.

During 1950-51 there were a few battalions of Kuomintang troops scattered over the area around Kengtung in the Shan States, southwest Yunnan etc. When the communists took over in 1950 there was the problem of these Kuomintang forces left behind in this area. The Taiwanese Government maintained them by airdropping supplies for some time.

But this could not go on indefinitely. Some who volunteered were armed and some others smuggled

themselves out and reached Taiwan. The rest of the forces crossed into Yunnan and surrendered to the communist forces. During these operations the Taiwanese officers as also their American advisers had their staff headquarters in Kengtung.

#### Attractive proposition

At present China feels that there is nothing to be gained by starting hostilities with India. However, the upper triangle of Burma is a more attractive proposition for it because of its immense natural resources, minerals and timber, as also its agricultural produce and forest potential. At present China is virtually in possession of this territory. The lead and silver from Lashio and Nantun lead tin and tungsten of the Bawitwin and Mawchi mines, the jades of Mogoke, the rubies of Mogoke, the tung oil from the forests of

the Shan States and many other valuable materials are being carried away by China by cartloads and lorryloads.

The rebel armies of the Chindwin valley, the Kachins, the Burmese Nagas, the Chins, the Lushais and the Kukis are all trained and provisioned by the Chinese. The U.S. has been providing the finance as well as arms and ammunition.

Burma realised a bit too late the mistake it committed in adopting a policy of isolationism. During the last two years in particular Burma has been grinding up its loins to regain full control of its territories in the upper triangle.

In fighting the independent tribal armies in the Chindwin valley, Burma will be fighting the mercenary armies of the Chinese. China will then come into the open and may choose to make a massive invasion of the northern regions.

of Burma. What will be the repercussions?

#### New border with China

India is immediately affected. We will be having a new common border with China in our northeast. What is today the Indo-Burma border will become overnight an India-China border. China has been in close touch with the insurgents in our northeastern border regions. Chinese helicopters have dropped supplies to the insurgents during operations.

Once well established in the Chindwin valley, China will not have to bother about its bad logistics on the Himalayan front. The next move can be to persuade the tribals of the northeast to request for help. China can then produce another Afghanistan for us in our northeast.

The tribals have already been talking about it quite loudly during the last two years. The military road from Beijing to Kunming in Yunnan and then to Kunlong north of Kengtung, and then through Mogasung to Ledo in the Tirup division has once again become very important. It will once again play a very crucial part if there is another world war.

The offshoots of Digboi and Naharkatiya are at the western end of this road. Chinese occupation of the Chindwin valley will then be a bayonet at our throat. What will be our reaction?

During the last one year there has been a whispered allegation

that the U.S. is pressing China to occupy the northern regions of Burma and open a line of communication between Beijing and Chittagong. This road will run through the existing line through Kunming to Kunlong and then through Lashio to Mandalay and then west to the Chittagong Hills region. It will be only a few kilometres south of the southern tip of Mizoram.

In 1979 the efforts of the Christian missionary organisations to establish a base for insurgency in Arunachal Pradesh and channelise the trainees to a training camp south of Lhasa failed ignominiously and ended in disaster. Thereafter the U.S. is said to have increased its pressure on China to seek an outlet to the Bay of Bengal.

The Soviet Union is not happy over this move. The pro-Moscow regimes in Laos and Vietnam are now moving in the matter to cut the Stilwell road.

If the Vietnamese forces succeed in this, it can be a very serious setback to the Chinese intentions. These pro-Soviet forces can take their positions on the Yunnan-Burma border and effectively prevent the final take-over of the upper triangle by China. It can be made to appear that they entered Burma at the invitation of Government.

The nature of the operations going on around Kengtung shows that Vietnam and Laos want to respect the neutrality of this territory. Instead of entering Burma through Kengtung they are trying to outflank Kengtung on the north by cutting across southwest Yunnan

to Kunglon, an important transit camp on the Stilwell Road.

#### A cockpit

The upper triangle of Burma is slowly emerging as a cockpit. Our tribals in the northeast were getting ready to jump into this fray two years ago. The idea was to carve out an autonomous territory comprising Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and the upper triangle under the joint control of the U.S. and China with access to the Bay of Bengal.

It was a mistake to have soft-pedalled the issues in these tribal areas. We are at last waking up. The joint operations in the Chindwin valley should be pursued to their logical end. It is in our interest to help Burma to regain effective control of its territories in the north.

The report about the joint operations in Burma says that the object is to flush the valley of all insurgents. Is this the beginning of the end? Yes, if it is a thorough job in the sense that there are no hideouts and pockets left behind. It will also involve a deployment of a peace keeping force in that area for a year or two after the operations are over.

If the statements made by the Chinese politicians about their intentions are to be trusted, and if China is sincere and means what it says, then it can gracefully withdraw from upper Burma leaving the rebel armies to their fate.

The prospects are that the operations from our side will be successful but the Burmese army units even if assisted by Indian units will find the Chinese entrenched in the Shan States a very tough problem. Vietnam and Laos can give the final answer to this.

## OIL IMPORTERS REPORTED TO CAUSE FOREIGN EXCHANGE LOSS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jul 81 pp 1, 9

[Article by Madhukar Jhaveri]

[Text] Bombay, July 14.

Thanks to the ingenuity of a few super-rich traders, who know how to pull the right strings in New Delhi, the country is likely to incur an avoidable foreign exchange expenditure of about Rs. 200 crores on the import of fats of vegetable and animal origin during the 1981-82 oil year.

In a bid to plug the loopholes in the previous year's policy, the government has, of course, widened greatly the area of canalised imports during the current financial year. It has, thus, entrusted to the State Trading Corporation the imports of all oils and seeds of both edible and nonedible qualities, no matter whether these are mentioned specifically or not in the appendix 9 (5) of the policy statement.

But the government has woken up a bit too late. Anticipating a move of this kind, a few big importers have effectively stalled the restrictive measure quickly entering into large contracts with overseas suppliers, covering a number of items for industrial use. Just prior to the change in the policy. These importers are now sitting pretty.

Realising the gold mine the business represents, others in the trade have lost no time in joining the scramble. For them the task of claiming exemption from the ban on the ground that they had entered into commitments prior to the change in policy has been quite easy. They have managed to produce a number of contracts bearing the right dates, the overseas suppliers being generally accommodating in providing the backdated documents. Nor have they found it difficult to induce the Indian authorities to accept their manipulated claims.

The upshot of all this is that the country has already received, and the authorities have cleared, huge shipments of fats of vegetable and animal origin, some of them for the first time in the trade's history. Although no official data of the actual receipt and the supply in the pipeline is available, trade observers, who do not miss much, place the volume of business at about three-lakh tonnes. They claim that a part of the supply will arrive even during the 1981-82 oil year, to end in September 1982.

## Veritable Flood

To name only a few items, the country has already received an estimated 90,000 tonnes of palm stearin which is non-edible but finding its way into the vanaspati factories of unscrupulous owners. The shipments already unloaded include about 20,000 tonnes of industrial-grade coconut oil, 10,000 tonnes of animal/beef tallow, palm kernel oil and acid oil each, and about 5,000 tonnes of babusa oil.

Outstanding contracts are estimated at about 50,000 tonnes of palm stearin, 30,000 tonnes of animal/beef tallow, 15,000 tonnes of palm kernel oil, 30,000 tonnes of acid oil and 80,000 tonnes of industrial-grade coconut oil.

The veritable flood of these foreign products, which is valued at about Rs. 200 crores, is due to the fact that the present import duties ranging from 15 per cent to 80 per cent do not present a serious deterrent, the margins being what they are. Thus, after allowing for all expenses, a tonne of palm stearin nets an importer a profit of Rs. 1,700 a tonne. Industrial-grade coconut oil yields a margin of Rs. 1,600, palm kernel oil Rs. 1,500, animal/beef tallow Rs. 1,300 and acid oil Rs. 500 to 800 a tonne. Profits are much higher--around Rs. 5,000 a tonne--on imports made under the 12.5 per cent import duty.

But these are not the only items to escape the net of canalisation. The importers have only recently cleared about 22,000 tonnes of cottonseed oil, and the quantity of RBD palm oil, palm olein and other oils received in recent months is placed at about 40,000 tonnes. Yet, about 40,000 tonnes of cottonseed oil and 30,000 tonnes of palm-products are in the pipeline.

As is only to be expected, the huge imports have already hurt the indigenous non-edible oils used in the manufacture of soap and other products. Rice bran oil has been a serious victim, its price having dropped to the unusually low level of Rs. 5,200 a tonne in the face of shortage and exceptionally high prices of most edible oils. At this time last year, it had no difficulty in fetching Rs. 7,200 a tonne.

The flood of foreign materials has dealt a severe blow to the indigenous manufacturers of rice bran extractions, an export item of some magnitude, as their realisations from rice bran oil have dropped. The processing of minor seeds, which had developed promisingly in recent years because of the growing internal demand, has also suffered from the easy availability of imported materials. Indeed, there are complaints that this has pushed the industry back by ten years.

Despite the colossal waste of foreign exchange involved in these imports, it is considered doubtful if the authorities will be able to stop the flow entirely. For, the move will only result in a crop of law suits and nobody can predict the outcome, considering that the importers have been guided by the advice of people who know the loopholes, as also the way they can be exploited.

Observers feel, however, that the Government can still eliminate the mischief to a great extent by simply raising the import duty on these materials from the present 15 to 80 per cent. to a blanket 200 per cent. which is well within its power.

INDIA

RESULTS OF INDUSTRIAL MISSION TO UNITED KINGDOM TOLD

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 14: British industrialists have shown interest in setting up export-oriented units in India following the new government policy on incentives for these units, according to Mr. T. D. Sinha, president of the Association of Indian Engineering Industry.

Mr. Sinha, who had led an industrial mission to the U.K. recently, told newsmen today that joint working groups would be set up to explore opportunities for increasing bilateral trade and industrial co-operation.

Agreement to this effect had been reached with the British Machine Tools Association and the British Consultants Bureau. It was agreed that these joint groups would pay particular attention to the third country projects where Indo-British co-operation would help improve the projects' competitiveness.

He said the association would be provided a list of projects for third country co-operation so that Indian counterpart companies could be identified and brought together with the British companies for joint ventures.

Mr. Sinha said the British had a better perception of the Indian engineering capabilities now. The association would organise more sectoral missions to strengthen the contacts. The missions would cover the areas of machine tools, construction industry, consultancy services, electronics and instrumentation.

These missions, he said, would help boost India's exports so that the massive imbalance in India's trade with the U.K. could be narrowed.

CSO: 4220/7294



## ECONOMIC REFORMS COMMISSION'S DUTIES EXPANDED

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 13.

The terms of reference of the Jha Commission have been enlarged to empower it to suggest economies in public expenditure, simplification of import and export levies and liberalisation of controls to encourage economic development.

The Economic Administration Reforms Commission headed by Mr. L. K. Jha was initially entrusted with the tasks of suggesting improvement in tax administration and use of non-tax devices for raising additional revenues and the formulation of a model rent control Act, besides advising the Government on matters relating to the North-South Dialogue.

Early report: The Commission has been asked to give its suggestions for rationalisation of the tax structure well in time for incorporation in the next budget. It has been asked not to waste time by sending out elaborate questionnaires, but put forward its ideas cogently in brief notes for consideration and quick decision by the Government.

The Government wants the Commission to give the highest priority to suggestions for pruning public expenditure as part of the current anti-inflationary drive. The intention is to incorporate the Commission's suggestions, as far as practicable, into the proposals formulated by the Prime Minister's Secretariat and the Finance Ministry for curbing wasteful expenditure and observing economies wherever possible, without throttling normal investment for industrial growth and increased agricultural production.

Monetary operation: The latest economic package, including the sharp hikes in the prices of petroleum products, are seen primarily as a monetary operation to decrease the anticipated rise in budgetary deficit. It is anti-inflationary only in the limited sense that a big budgetary deficit has an inflationary impact and its reduction would help to reduce these pressures even if it is only to a marginal extent.

The steps taken by the Government in 1974 were basically aimed at curbing inflation by mopping up surplus cash in the hands of consumers, imposing severe credit restrictions, offering incentives for savings and managing the supply and demand position better through a prudent utilisation of the food imports.

The present package, on the contrary, involves a calculated risk in pushing up prices further through higher interest rates and increased transport costs in the course of narrowing down the budgetary deficit to manageable limits.

The Government has abandoned the idea of dividend curbs and impounding of additional dearness allowances on this occasion, since it did not want to tread too hard on the toes of the middle and working classes, after the sharp increase in petroleum prices.

Not hurt much: The latest measures have not really hurt the richer sections, since no bold attempt has been made to track down black money and plug the loopholes in the wholesale or distributive trades.

So a lot of emphasis is being placed on curtailment of public expenditure to reduce the budgetary imbalances, while the Government is exploring other means of relieving the pressure on prices.

The Jha Commission has been brought into the picture to enable experts to view this problem from both inside and outside the Government.

The Planning Commission has also been participating in this exercise at a different level to achieve greater economy through a more efficient and expeditious implementation of the approved Plans. But its emphasis is on continued investment to achieve the Plan targets through increased production.

The former member of the Planning Commission, Prof. Sukumoy Chakravarti, has been requested to rejoin the Commission as part of the Prime Minister's effort to strengthen it. But he has declined the offer for personal reasons, although he will continue to be available for consultations on specific issues.

CSO: 4220/7289

## FRG TO HELP BOOST INDIAN ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Jul 81 p 3

[Text] West Germany will help India in establishing electronics test laboratories throughout the country and in modernizing the existing ones, during a three-year project. Work for this has already started since the end of last year. The project cost of Rs 12 crores, will be borne jointly by the two countries.

The project, which is expected to give a much-needed boost to the electronics industry, has been named "Standardization of Testing Quality Control". It will strive mainly for "quality assurance of electronic products" and will try to make both the industry and the people aware of the urgent need to enable the country to compete with the other countries in this field.

Under the project, there will be a primary standards laboratory, four regional testing laboratories and 18 other laboratories in different cities to provide testing, calibration and development assistance to the industry, especially its small and middle category units. Some of these laboratories have already been set up.

It has been felt that most of the small and middle-scale industries in electronics, are failing to maintain uniform quality of their products, mainly because testing is a tricky, costly affair and they lack sufficient funds for that. The laboratories will give them that scope.

The project also underlines the need for organizing seminar-cum-workshops in different cities to propagate quality control among the units. The West German Government has also decided to provide information the latest in this field, through books and films. The seminars are being addressed by international experts from Germany, Switzerland and the USA.

The eastern regional testing laboratory has been recently set up in Calcutta as part of the project. As an initial step, the laboratory has decided to conduct a number of seminars on topics associated with specification testing and quality assurance of electronic products. The seminars aim at motivating the electronics industry to adopt modern concepts on quality assurance and apprise the industry of measures needed to ensure quality of their products in the fiercely-competitive world market.

The first of the series of the seminars started in Calcutta on Monday. Speakers at the seminar's inaugural function, reiterated the need for maintaining the

quality of the electronic products. The five-day seminar will be conducted by Mr Van Der Touw, a Swiss expert on quality assurance in electronics industry. Speaking at the seminar entitled "Quality Assurance of Electronic Products", Mr D. Feldmann, coordinator of the project, said that West Germany would try to bring India up to international standards in electronics. He said that India had received the largest amount of such aid from the West German Government, compared to other countries.

Mr Touw described India as a "sleeping giant" which had no lack of technically capable people and had the advantage of cheap labour. He felt that with the right guidance, India could outstrip many countries in this field and could flood the world market. "But you must start now. Don't sleep too long. Wake up soon". He advised business men that "bad quality is more expensive" in the long run.

Mr B. Nag, Professor of electronics, Jadvapur University, inaugurated the seminar. He and Mr M. Mukutmani, Director of the Regional Testing Laboratory in Calcutta, urged the industry to stress on quality.

CSO: 4220/7288

## PROBLEMS OF EASTERN REGION INDUSTRIAL GROWTH STUDIED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Jul 81 p 3

[Text] A recent non-official survey of the causes of the poor investment climate in the eastern region, particularly in West Bengal, shows that bad management, political interference, power shortage, unfavourable industrial relations and the apathetic attitude of the State Governments are the main reasons for the decline of the industry in the region.

In 1979, the northern region accounted for 45% of industrial licences issued by the Centre, followed by the western and southern regions with 22% and 21.4%, respectively. The eastern region lagged behind sharing barely 11% of the licences, indicating a dull investment climate in the region.

It is said in the analysis that a buoyant situation prevailed for the engineering industry in West Bengal in the 50s and early 60s when many orders were received from the growing steel industry and the traditional jute and tea sectors. But, most of the firms failed to realize that the boom would not continue for long and did not take necessary steps to diversify and upgrade technology to meet future demands. The management of only a few firms could anticipate it and generate enough surplus to open new units.

As regards political interference, a common complaint heard in West Bengal is that the Centre's stepmotherly attitude is one of the reasons for the low industrial growth in the State. The survey says that the allegation may or may not be true, but it surely does not justify the low growth situation in three other eastern States of Bihar, Orissa and Assam. It can, however, be said that the Centre's reluctance to set up units in the public sector in the eastern region, particularly in West Bengal, is one of the reasons for the industrial stagnation in the region. The Committee on Public Undertakings has recently said that the north-eastern region's share of the Rs 5,391-crore development assistance provided by the Industrial Development Bank of India during the past 16 years is barely 1% of the total amount.

Power is perhaps the major infra-structural constraint on industrial development in the eastern region. Despite the critical power shortage the eastern and north-eastern regions have been allotted the lowest generation quota of 3,400 MW of the total 18,000 MW additional generation capacity to be installed in the country during the Sixth Plan period.



Although official circles take pains to point out that the labour situation in the eastern region is better than in most other States, the fact remains that in 1979, the eastern region accounted for 45% of the total mandays lost in the country because of industrial disputes. The production loss in the region in that year because of industrial disputes was Rs 7.37 crores. The number of industrial disputes and that of mandays lost in West Bengal were the highest in the country in 1979. It is felt that with the changing pattern of trade union movement, labour needs mature handling. But, unfortunately, labour management in the eastern region has not, in general, been efficient so far.

Referring to the drain of capital from West Bengal to other States, the survey report states that the main reason for this is the better incentives offered by the State Governments and development organizations in other regions to the entrepreneurs than that provided in West Bengal.

The performance of the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation compared to that of the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation was dismal, according to the survey. While the Maharashtra Government expects to attract Rs 1,500 crores worth of petro-dollar investment from the oil rich West Asian countries for 16 new projects, nothing has so far been done by the States in the eastern region to woo West Asian investors.

The survey was conducted by the Association of Indian Engineering Industry.

CSO: 4220/7288

DEFENSE EXPERTS REPORT BUILDUP ON PAKISTAN BORDER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 12 (PTI).

Pakistan is reported to have completed a programme of "massive military buildup" all along the Indian border.

According to reliable defence analysts, Pakistan has at present deployed nearly 350,000 men divided among 15 infantry divisions, two armoured divisions, three artillery brigades, and 15 air defence regiments on the Indian border.

While raising the bogey of "an imminent threat" from Afghanistan side, Pakistan has been engaged in a programme of gradual increase in its defence forces all along the Indian border.

Defence experts were surprised that Pakistan, which claimed to the world from roof-top that it had Russians at its doors, via Afghanistan, had deployed only four divisions of infantry and a single armoured division to safeguard its vulnerable border areas including the mountain passes of Bolan and Khyber of Karakoram range.

Asserting that India was well aware of Pakistan's military build-up along the border, Indian defence sources said, "we are neither complacent nor panicky."

They, however, expressed concern over the reported move of the U.S. to equip Pakistan with F-16 fighter bombers, and M-60 battle tanks.

It is estimated that with the addition of 600 M-60 tanks, Pakistan would have nearly 2,000 battle tanks comprising shermans, T-59 and M60.

In addition to the aircraft and tanks, Pakistan was also expected to receive about 500 armoured personnel carriers, 50 helicopters for army aviation corps and huge stock of night vision fighting equipment.

A former army general said, "if we look at this in historical perspective, we come to only one conclusion--that this amassing of arms is not good for India."

## Military Airports

Besides over 300,000 infantrymen along the Indian border, Pakistan has also positioned nearly 2,000 medium and heavy artillery guns, battalions of rocket launchers, 15 companies of troops equipped with anti-tanks, guided missiles of the first and second generation.

All along the 1,500-kilometer border, Pakistan is reported to have also completed the construction of a large number of military airports capable of landing and taking off supersonic fighter aircraft.

While there has been a noticeable increase in Pakistani troops and armament along the Indian border, Pakistan's preparation along the Afghan border to defend itself were reported to be at a low key, according to international military experts.

According to information available with defence sources, Pakistan had enhanced substantially its infantry as well artillery strength since 1972.

In 1972, Pakistan had only three corps headquarters which were now eight registering an increase of five. The number of mountain and infantry divisions had also increased from 10 to 19. There was considerable addition in the army aviation corps, the anti-tank guided missiles battalions, artillery regiments, air defence regiments and independent armoured brigades.

Sources claimed that Indian defence authorities were quite vigilant and watchful of the development in Pakistan and were confident that India's defence preparedness was capable of facing any eventuality.

CSO: 4220/7279

# ARMY AIR DEFENSE REGIMENTS TO BE MODERNIZED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Jul 81 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, July 12 (UNI): The air defence regiments of the army are to be modernised in view of the acquisition by Pakistan of F-16 aircraft from the United States. The regiments will be equipped by up-to-date missiles among other things.

According to informed sources, the strike character of the air defence regiments (ADR) will be bolstered by equipping them with surface-to-air missiles (SAMS), ground-to-ground and air-to-air missiles. At present, an ADR has limited types of missiles.

The re-equipment of the air defence regiments assumes importance with the Pakistani army raising its ADR strength from 15 in 1972 to 36 up to May.

In comparison, the Indian army had 21 ADRs in 1972 and has added only five more by May last. Thus in this segment of the army, Pakistan has an advantage.

Pakistan has been propagating that it is acquiring sophisticated weapons systems, including the F-16s, to counter threats from the Soviet-backed Afghan forces.

According to international strategic studies, Pakistan has positioned two divisions along the Landi Kotwai-Khyber Pass sector to the west of Peshawar.

Against the Soviet army strength of about one division south of Kandahar, Pakistan has two divisions between Quetta and Chaman.

Contrary to public pronouncements, Pakistan has concentrated 17 army divisions all along its border with India. In addition, Pakistan has two tank divisions, nine divisions of frontier corps and at least six battalions of Mujahid paramilitary forces.

Pakistan is also acquiring 500 to 600 guns, about 2,000 anti-tank guided missiles and over 60 attack helicopters for its army aviation wing.

Pakistan is also expected a considerable fleet of armoured personnel carriers under an arms aid agreement with the United States.

CSO: 4220/7280

## WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT ON QUALITIES OF F-16

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jul 81 p 9

[Article by N. Ram]

[Text] India will take due heed of the fact that seven F-16 fighter-bombers from the 388th tactical wing of the U.S. Air Force recently flew away with British Royal Air Force tactical bombing competition in Scotland--leaving the competing F-111s, RAF Jaguars and Buccaneers very far behind.

The no-contest win came in the first international bombing meet in which F-16s are known to have participated.

According to an announcement by the U.S. Air Force, the F-16s scored 7,831 out of a maximum 8,000 points, and this was good enough to beat the runner-up--the team from RAF Bruggen, West Germany--by 1,074 points. The contest involved penetrating air and ground defences to attack simulated targets, and the flight crews were judged for bombing accuracy and countering interceptor threats.

## Hits All Targets

According to General Dynamics, the company that gave the deadly plane to the U.S. Air Force, "The F-16s were the only aircraft in the competition to hit all targets in two days of bombing runs and against a convoy of vehicles....The air-to-air threats, RAF F-4s and Lightnings, put constant pressure on the competing aircraft from five minutes after they took off until they landed.

During the 16 competition sorties, the F-16 team achieved a total of 86 'kills'--while suffering no losses--in engaging the interceptor aircraft". The announcement stated that the other teams received a total of "42 'losses' collectively made only one 'kill'".

Another point made by General Dynamics is that its needle-nosed "small, light-weight, agile, difficult to see, and hard to hit"--fighters demonstrated "superior survivability against surface-to-air Rapier missile threats" and averaged a 10.5 minute turn-around time on the ground.

The description of the F-16 fighter-bomber in India as "a class of aircraft a generation ahead of anything operating with other Air Forces" in the South Asian region is a matter-of-fact acknowledgement of what military analysts here are beginning to take for granted.



The top of the line fighter in the U.S. Air Force is the F-15, a longer-ranging, much bigger, much more awesome, much more sophisticated and much more expensive military aircraft than the F-16. Since the "air superiority fighter" was introduced by the U.S. Air Force in the mid-1970s, the company that designed and manufactured it--McDonnell Douglas Corporation--as well as the Air Force have touted it as "the world's best fighter".

Soviet experts have not bothered to contest this, in line with their practice of not entering into polemics or public discussions comparing various high-performance aircraft and other weaponry.

Some military analysts, and especially conservatives attempting to demonstrate a substantial Soviet military 'lead' over the United States, have questioned the practical wisdom of relying so heavily on the F-15s, which they present as not adequately ready or mission-capable, not supported with enough spare parts and test equipment, and also as being large and visible to the point of vulnerability.

#### Superior Aircraft

While non-experts have clearly no way of judging such claims or assertions, the point is that the same conservative critics of the F-15s recommend the procurement of F-16s over the former for the U.S. Air Force. According to one such expert, Mr. Pierre M. Sprey (a former Pentagon official contributing to a book by the ultra-right Heritage Foundation), "in visual combat, the F-16 has been demonstrated to be the superior aircraft".

The literature and photographs supplied to THE HINDU by General Dynamics as well as the material gathered from the U.S. Air Force underline the point of 'unique' high performance. Independent experts are generally agreed that at the least the F-16 (as one background note puts it) "utilises the latest technology in its design, its avionics, its electronic countermeasures and its weapon systems.

"It is capable of operating in all weather by both day and night in both air-air and air-ground roles. The aircraft has an advanced multi-mode radar, and a computer system that enables the pilot to safely and effectively exploit all activities from cockpit management through navigation and threat assessment to target selection and acquisition, and automatic weapon delivery".

The thrust/weight ratio of about 1.3:1 in air combat is said to give it "a clear advantage in acceleration and manoeuvrability" over the MIG-23 (about 0.85:1) or the Jaguar (about 0.7:1).

For attacking ground targets, it can unleash a significantly greater payload at a greater range than either the Jaguar or the MIG-23.

While it is likely that there are, or soon will be, military aircraft produced by the Soviet Union or France to match the F-16, there can be no question that its supply in significant quantity in the near future to the Pakistani military dictatorship will introduce into South Asia a qualitatively new factor that will make an arms race unavoidable.

At the same time, as one leading American military commentator reports it, there is being expressed by "military leaders and civilian analysts in Washington

and other NATO capitals" the feeling that "no matter what sums were expended (on behalf of the Pakistani regime) and no matter how many F-16s were included in the deal, the resulting Pakistan military structure would not provide an effective answer to a Soviet drive from Afghanistan into Pakistan".

Two basic reasons are given for this reading. First, Pakistan's armed forces have "one of the widest and most awkward mixtures of military equipment in the world". Secondly, both the Army and the Air Force in that country have "insufficient training in modern warfare, including the use of precision-guided missiles, to fight effectively against well-equipped Soviet divisions and tactical Air Forces".

In a long article published in an American daily on Sunday, Mr. Robert C. Byrd, the former majority and now minority leader in the Senate, has unexpectedly joined in the criticism of the policy of inducting F-16s into Pakistan at this time.

"Need more be said concerning the stability of the Indian sub-continent?" (His larger argument is that a foreign policy "predicated on a singular, ideological preoccupation with the Soviet Union...based solely upon a narrow preoccupation with the Soviet Union is doomed to failure...").

#### New Factor

In other words, all but the most hard-boiled apologist for the Reagan administration's course are beginning to admit in independent discussion, or privately, that rearming the Pakistani military dictatorship can have very little to do with the "western front," against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. (At any rate, the Soviet Union can rather easily take care of itself, vis-a-vis any mischief from the Zia regime).

On the other hand, the results of the international tactical bombing competition in Scotland reiterate the validity of the very serious concern felt in India over the decision to introduce into the region--and directly into the hands of an isolated and highly unpopular regime--a qualitatively new factor of war.

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## KERALA CHIEF MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT ON OIL PRICES

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jul 81 p 11

[Text] Trivandrum, July 13.

The Kerala Chief Minister, Mr. E. K. Nayanar, today urged the Central Government to withdraw the hike in the price of petroleum products and fertilizers.

Making a statement in the Assembly Mr. Nayanar said the increase was "a cruel blow to the people who are already groaning under the weight of soaring prices."

The price of petrol has gone up by 53 paise per litre, high-speed diesel oil by 32 paise per litre, kerosene by 15 paise per litre while the price of furnace oil will go up to Rs. 235 per kilo-litre. The price of chemical fertilizers also has gone up. Though this was the official increase, as a result of local taxes and transporting cost, the actual increase in prices would be much more.

Chain effect feared: The Chief Minister said there was no doubt that there would be an all-round increase in prices particularly in a State like Kerala which was at the southern tip of the country.

Essential commodities needed in the State had to be brought from other States by road. This would naturally mean a general price increase. Bus, taxi and autorickshaw fares would go up while the cooking gas price increase would hit middle class families.

Paddy cultivators as well as coconut-growers would find the hike in fertilizer prices an unbearable burden. Industrial products would cost more because of costlier furnace oil, Mr. Nayanar said.

It was only three months ago that the rise in price of petroleum products created considerable hardship to the people. More than any other State, Kerala was going to face a more difficult period. "Therefore on behalf of the State Government, and this House I request the Central Government to withdraw the price increases."

Interruptions: The Chief Minister's statement was interrupted several times by Kerala Congress (Joseph Group), members, who wanted the House to discuss the CPI(M) "atrocities" in Aleppey district.

Amidst the din created by them, the Chief Minister read out his statement at the end of which the leader of the Opposition, Mr. K. Karunakaran, asked "In view of your anxiety over the additional burden on the people, will you reduce or withdraw the sales tax on these items as a relief measure?"

The Chief Minister replied: "We have not increased the sales tax at all."

The former Chief Minister, Mr. P. K. Vasudevan Nair (CPI), asked Mr. Karunakaran "Do you support the price increase ordered by the Central Government?"

He replied: "For the overall economic stability of the country, the Central Government will take its own decisions. These decisions are in the national interest."

The Chief Minister said it was regrettable that his statement was interrupted by Kerala Congress (J) members who claimed to be the champions of farmers. "My statement highlighted the problems the farmers would face following the price increase" Mr. Nayanar said.

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## BRIEFS

**BRITISH 'APATHY' PROTESTED**--Bombay, July 13: The CPM today held a demonstration outside the office of the British deputy high commissioner here to protest against what it called British apathy in not protecting people of Asian and African origin from racial riots in England. Party volunteers led by Mrs. [name illegible] Rangnekar and Mr. P. K. [name illegible] held placards and shouted slogans condemning Britain's racial policies. Mrs. Rangnekar was among those who addressed the demonstrators briefly. A memorandum, addressed to the deputy high commissioner, criticised Mrs. Thatcher for "abdicating" her responsibility to protect the interests of blacks and coloureds. It called upon the government to punish the racists responsible for the riots and give compensation to the victims. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jul 81 p 1]

**RSS APPEAL**--New Delhi, July 13 (PTI): The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has called for a ban on religious conversion and flow of foreign money into the country. The sangh's karyakari mandal expressed its concern over reports of conversion of large number of Harijans into Islam at Meenakshipuram and other places in Tamil Nadu. A resolution adopted at the two-day meeting of the mandal, which ended here yesterday, alleged that vast amounts of money, coercion and other illegal methods were adopted to get the Harijans converted. The mandal appealed to the Harijans to stand united with the main body of Hindu society. It assured them that the sangh would leave no stone unturned to secure them a place of equality and respect in Hindu society. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jul 81 p 7]

**PLA WEAPONS SECRETARY RESIGNS**--Calcutta, July 13--The grenade with which the Manipur rebels killed two jawans in Manipur has reportedly an imported one and gifted to them by pro-China Naga hostiles. The grenade, which was used in an earlier attack, was also an imported one, according to competent sources. It is reported that following the arrest of Mr Bisweswar Singh and other PLA leaders in Manipur, the extremists have been receiving arms from the Naga rebels led by T Mulvah and Isaac Swue. In Manipur two of the first rank leaders of the PLA are now at large according these sources. They are: Kunja Bihari Singh and Nemi Singh. It is felt that any serious attack by the PLA in view of their depleted strength is unlikely unless they are replenished by the Naga hostiles. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Jul 81 p 4]

**SOCIALIST SECRETARY RESIGNS**--Parimal Das, secretary of the Socialist Party, has resigned from his post as well as from the national executive of the party, reports PTI. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Jul 81 p 1]



**BENGAL CPI-M HEADQUARTERS**--The headquarters of the West Bengal unit of the CPI(M) in Calcutta were shifted from the old premises at 33, Alimuddin Street to an adjoining newly-built three-storey house on Sunday. Addressing a brief inaugural meeting, the secretary of the State Committee, Mr Promode Dasgupta, said that the building had been named "Muzaffar Ahmed Bhavan" to perpetuate the memory of the founder of the Communist Party of India. The inaugural day had been chosen because Ahmed had brought out the periodical, NAVA YUGA on July 12, 1920, to propagate Leftist ideas. He thanked the labourers and engineers who had helped to build the house. The party's two organs, GANASHAKTI and DESHAHITAISHI, will also be housed in the new building. The Chief Minister, Mr Joyti Basu, was present at the meeting. [Excerpts] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Jul 81 p 9]

**COAL GASIFICATION PROPOSAL**--Gandhinagar, July 14: The planning commission has asked the Union petroleum ministry to prepare a proposal for gasification of coal in the Kalol region of Gujarat for the consideration of the Central cabinet. Disclosing this in the Gujarat assembly today, the state finance and planning minister, Mr. Sanat Mehta, said the Centre had already sent two experts of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to France and Belgium to study the gasification technology there. According to a preliminary estimate, about 60 billion tonnes of coal are located at a depth of 1,500 metres in the Kalol region and it could be utilised by latest technology of gasification. The finance minister, who was replying to the debate on supplementary demands, totalling more than Rs. 40, crores, also enumerated measures initiated by the government to meet the future demand for power in the state. As soon as the minister completed his reply, the opposition members sought the permission of the speaker, Mr. Natwarlal Shah, to put supplementary questions. The speaker, however, refused permission. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jul 81 p 9]

**DELEGATION TO KENYA**--New Delhi, July 14 (UNI): A multi-disciplinary Indian delegation will visit Kenya from July 17 to hold discussions on promotion of trade and economic collaboration between the two countries and the areas of co-operation identified during the visit to India of the President of Kenya, Mr. Daniel T. Arap Moi in February. The delegation led by Mr. K. Prakash Anand, joint secretary in the ministry of commerce, will include experts from various industries like machine tools, electronics, small-scale industries and pesticides. During the Kenyan President's visit, various Indo-Kenyan joint venture projects in machine-tools, pesticides, sugar, cement, oxygen plants, drugs and pharmaceuticals and animal feed plant. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jul 81 p 12]

**CPI-M ON TRIPURA**--Agartala, July 14--Centre's "increasing intervention" in Tripura's internal affairs has been viewed with serious concern by the ruling CPI(M) at its two-day meeting here, reports PTI. The party which concluded its deliberations on July 12 alleged that the Centre was non-cooperating with the State Government in providing finance for rehabilitation of the victims of last year's June disturbances and in implementing various development projects in the State. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Jul 81 p 9]

MANIPUR CABINET CHANGES--Imphal, July 12 (PTI)--Manipur Chief Minister, Reishang Keishing today announced a reallocation of portfolios among the Council Ministers in the State. According to an official announcement here, Mr. Keishing will hold most of the important portfolios, including home and general administration. Minister for electricity K Radhabinod Singh has been given additional portfolios of law and legislative affairs, while Irrigation and Floods Control Minister, Chaoba Singh will look after the animal husbandry department also. Beside agriculture, Mr Ngurdienglien will also hold the charge of transport, while the department of community and rural development has been given to Forest Minister, Helauddin. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Jul 81 p 7]

U.S., PRC BALLOONS--Ballia (U.P.), July 13. A Chinese and an American balloon containing literature and clothes landed in two different villages of the district yesterday according to the police. The Chinese balloon dropped in Khevassar village while the other balloon bearing "USA" mark was found in Saleempur village. The police have taken the balloons and the literature in their custody.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jul 81 p 7]

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